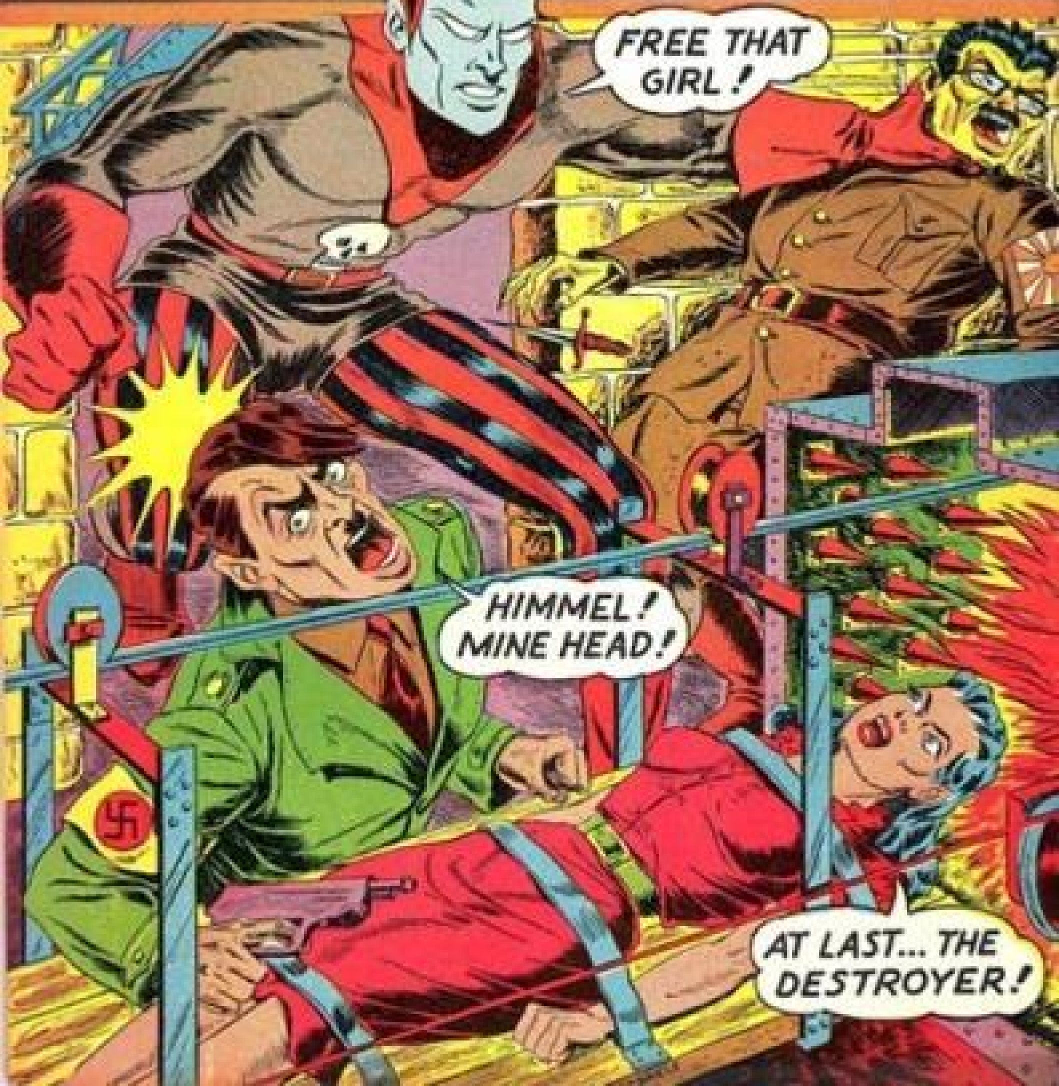
MYSTIC
COMICS

Featuring
15 PAGES OF THE
FIGHTING
DESTROYER
IN *action!*

NO. 9

MAY

10¢


FREE THAT GIRL!
HIMMEL! MINE HEAD!
AT LAST... THE DESTROYER!

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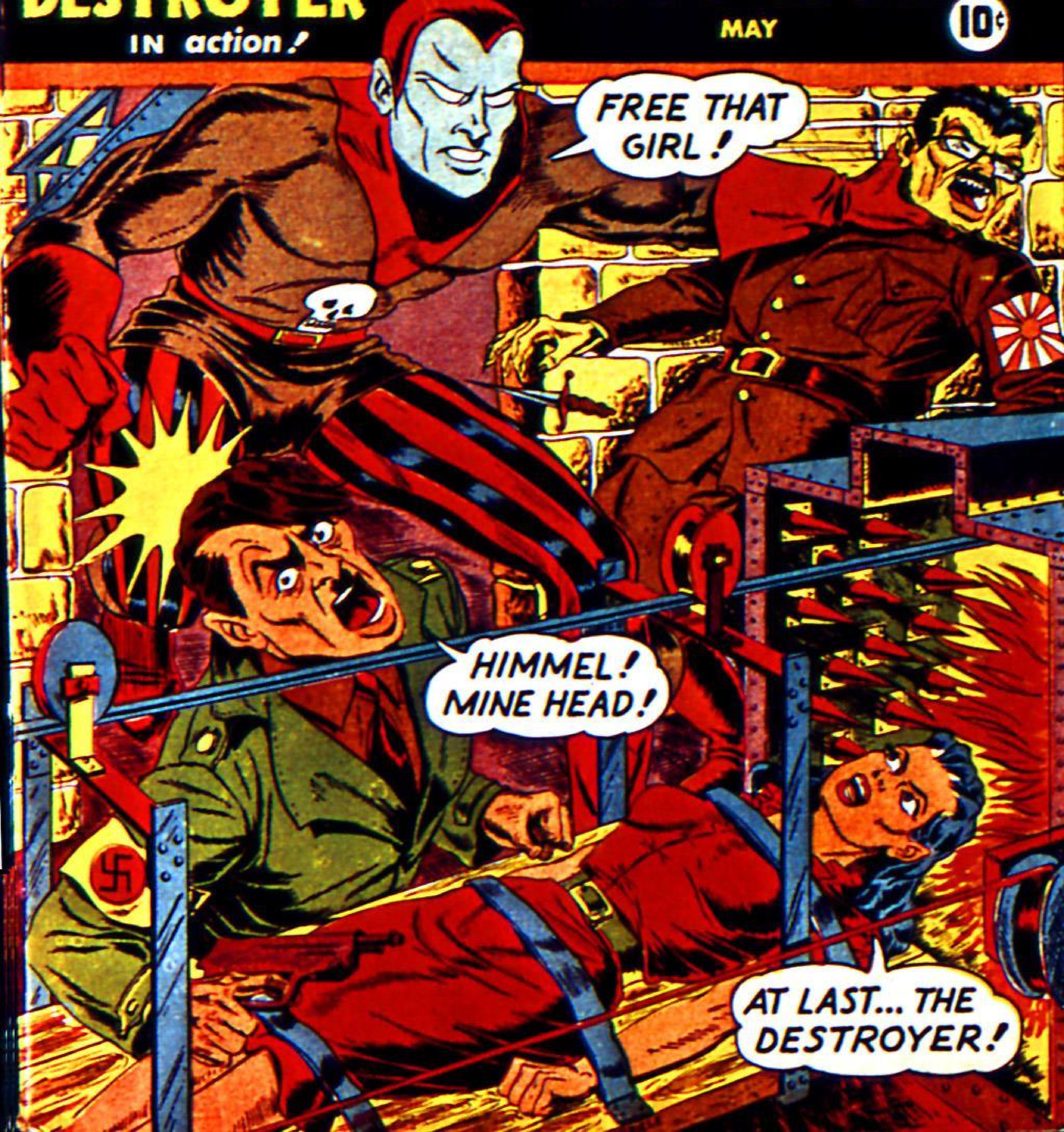
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MYSTIC COMICS

AMERICA'S GREATEST LINE-UP OF THRILLS!

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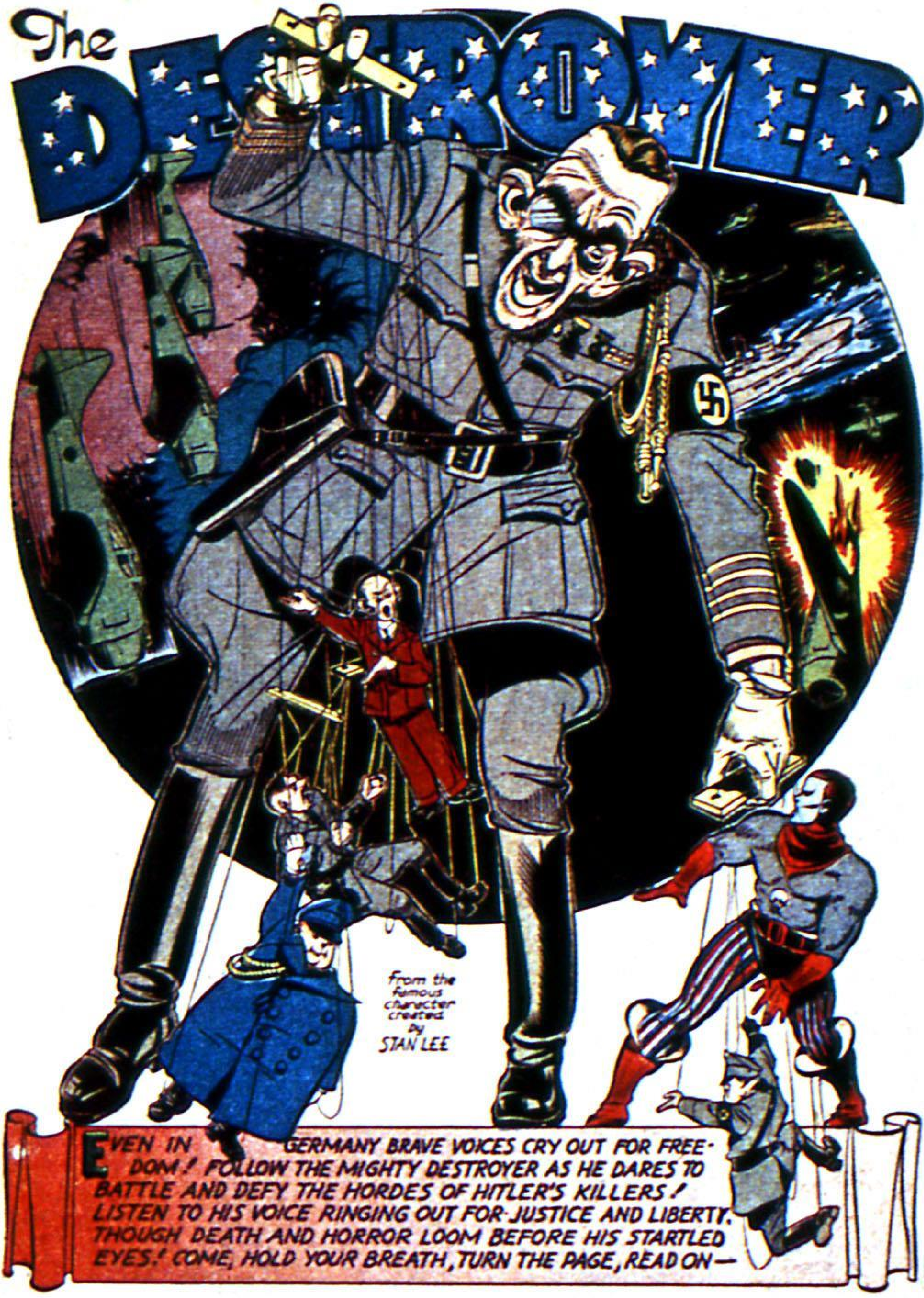
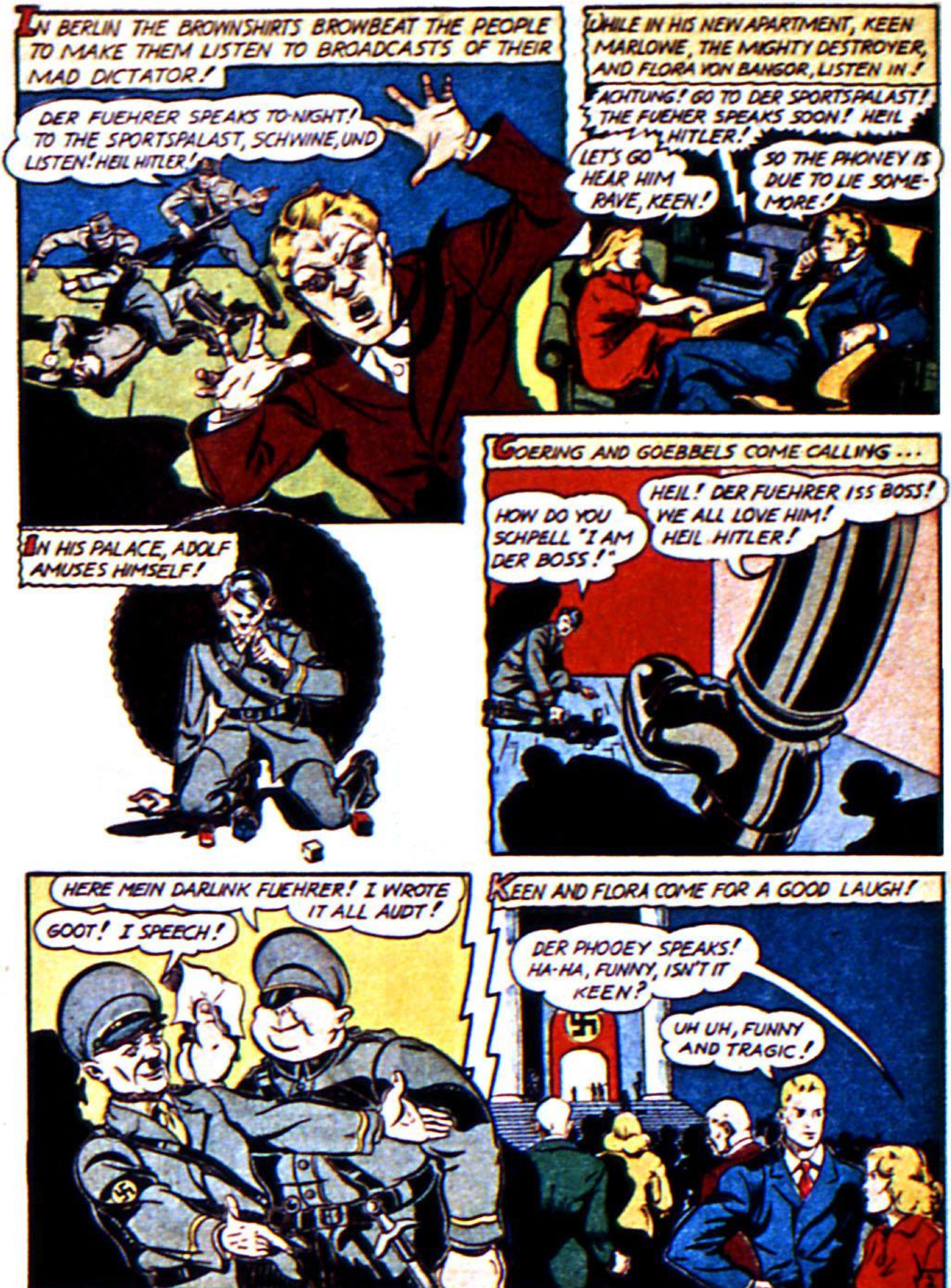
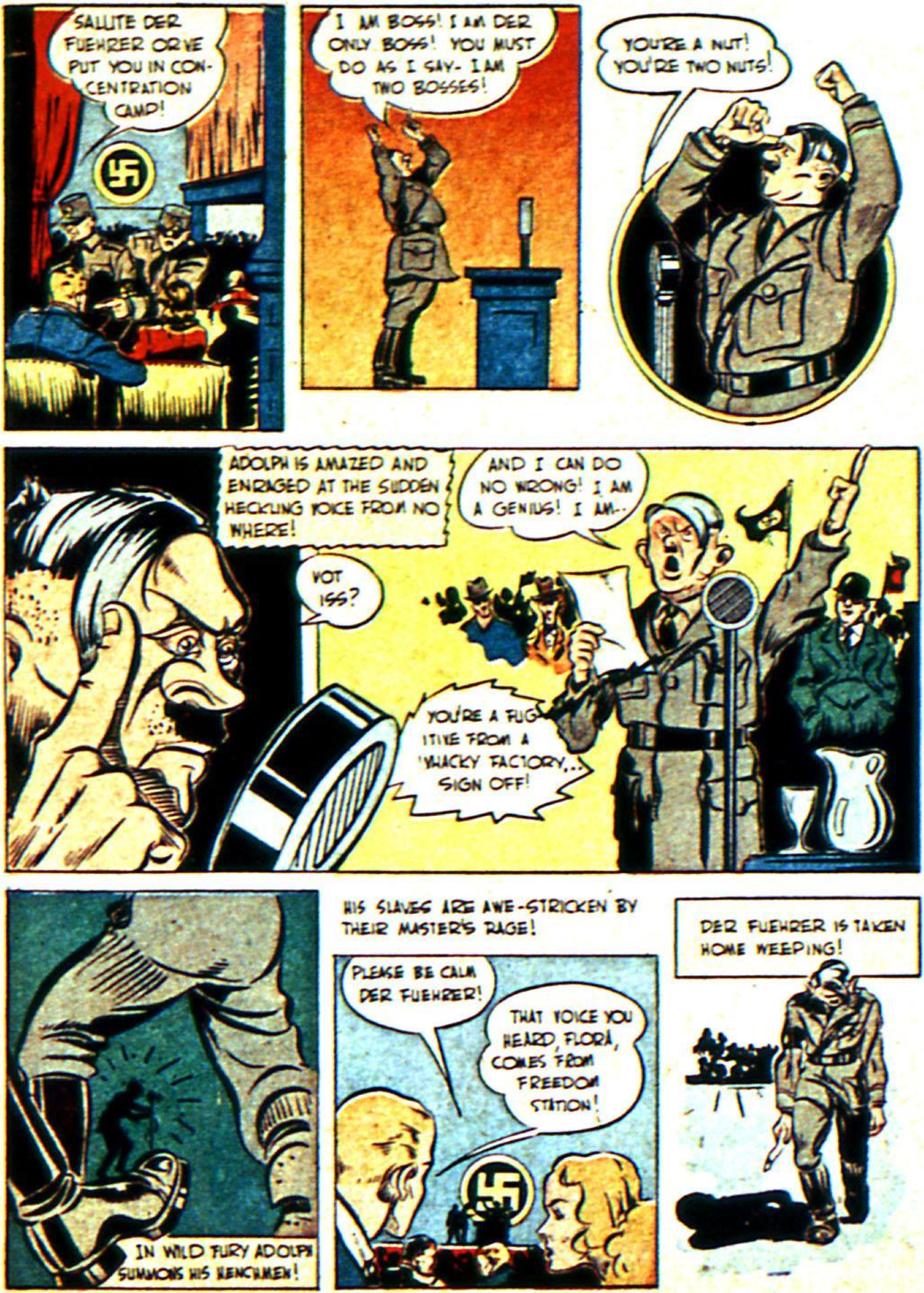
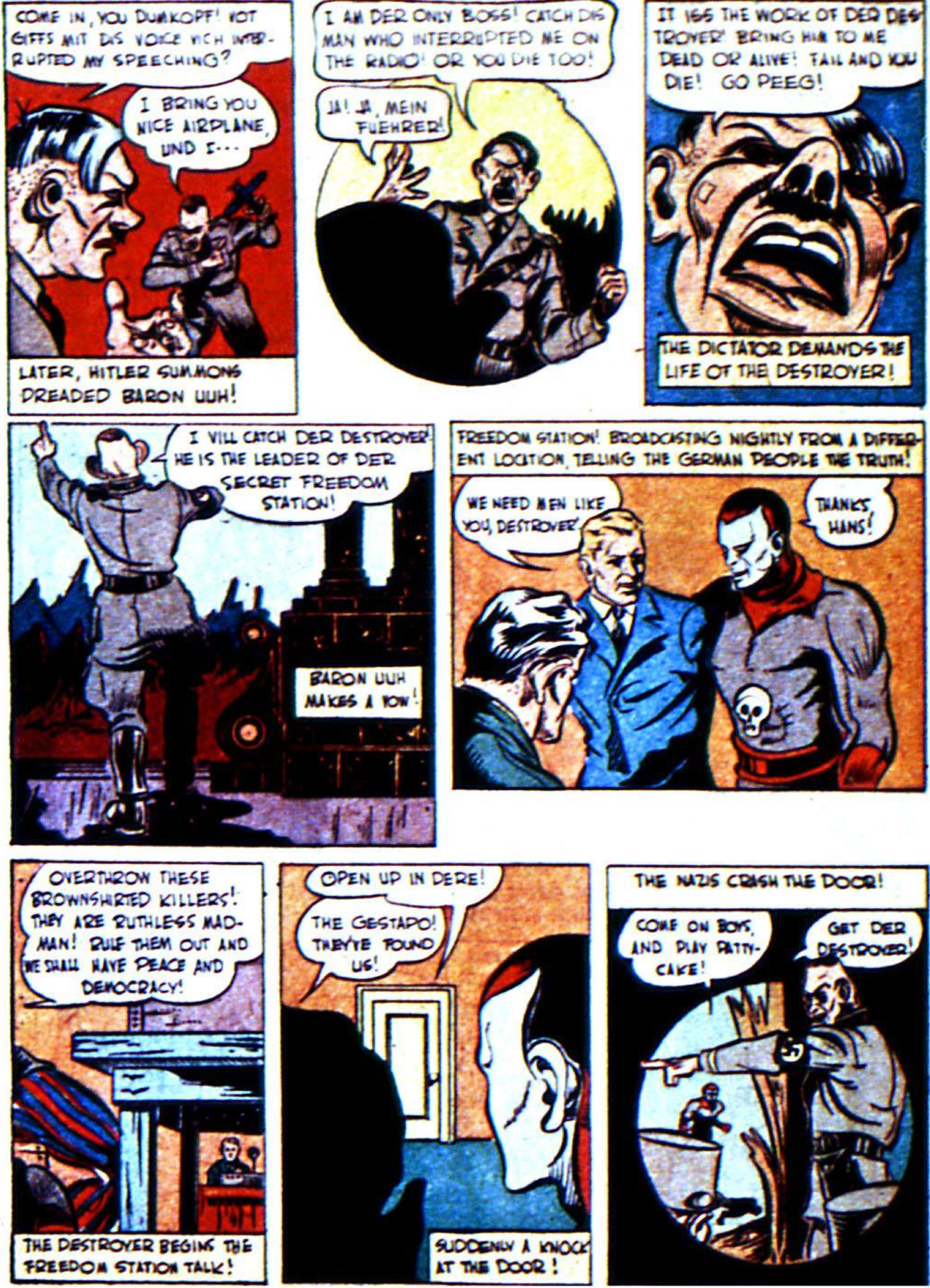
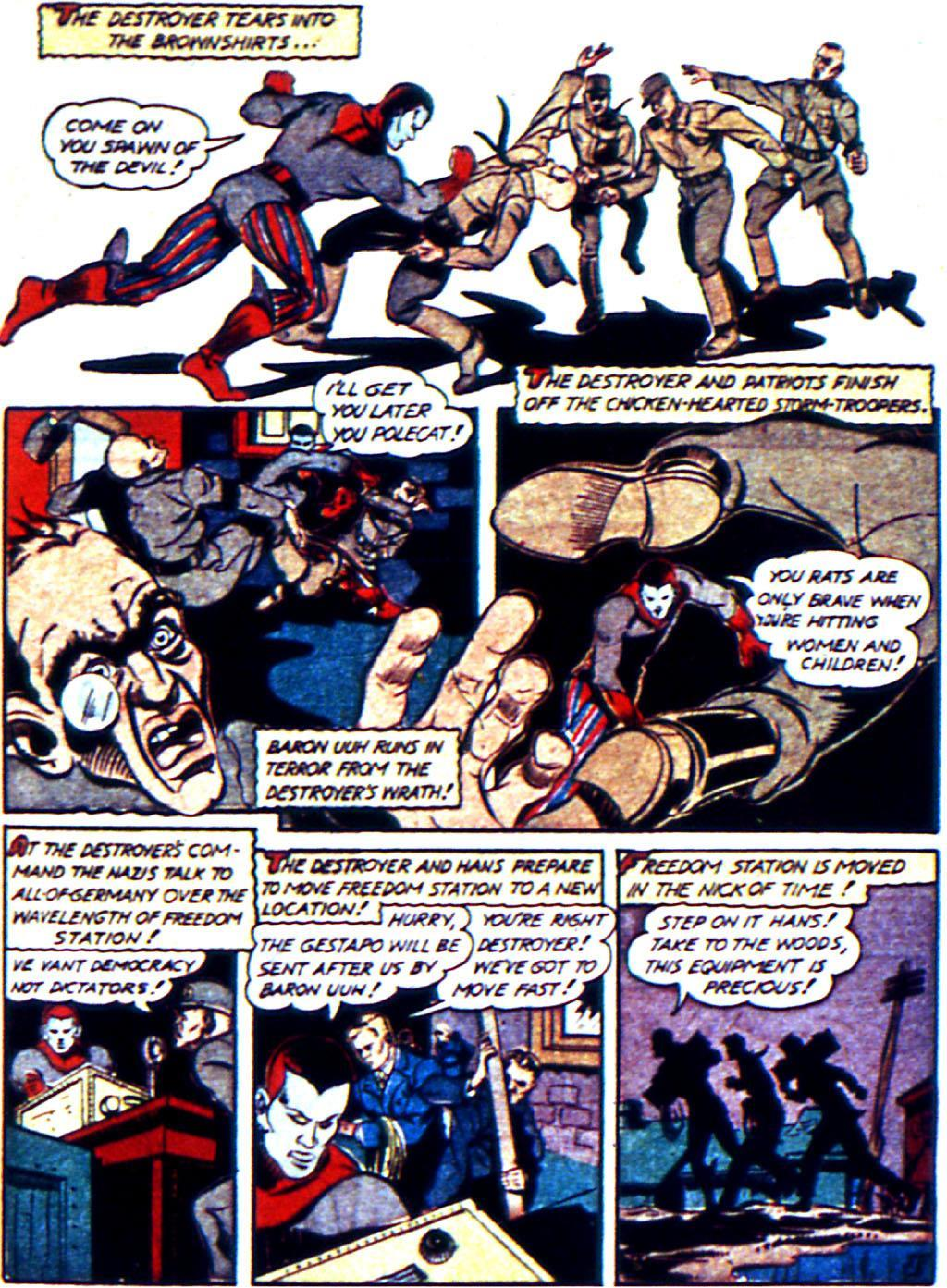
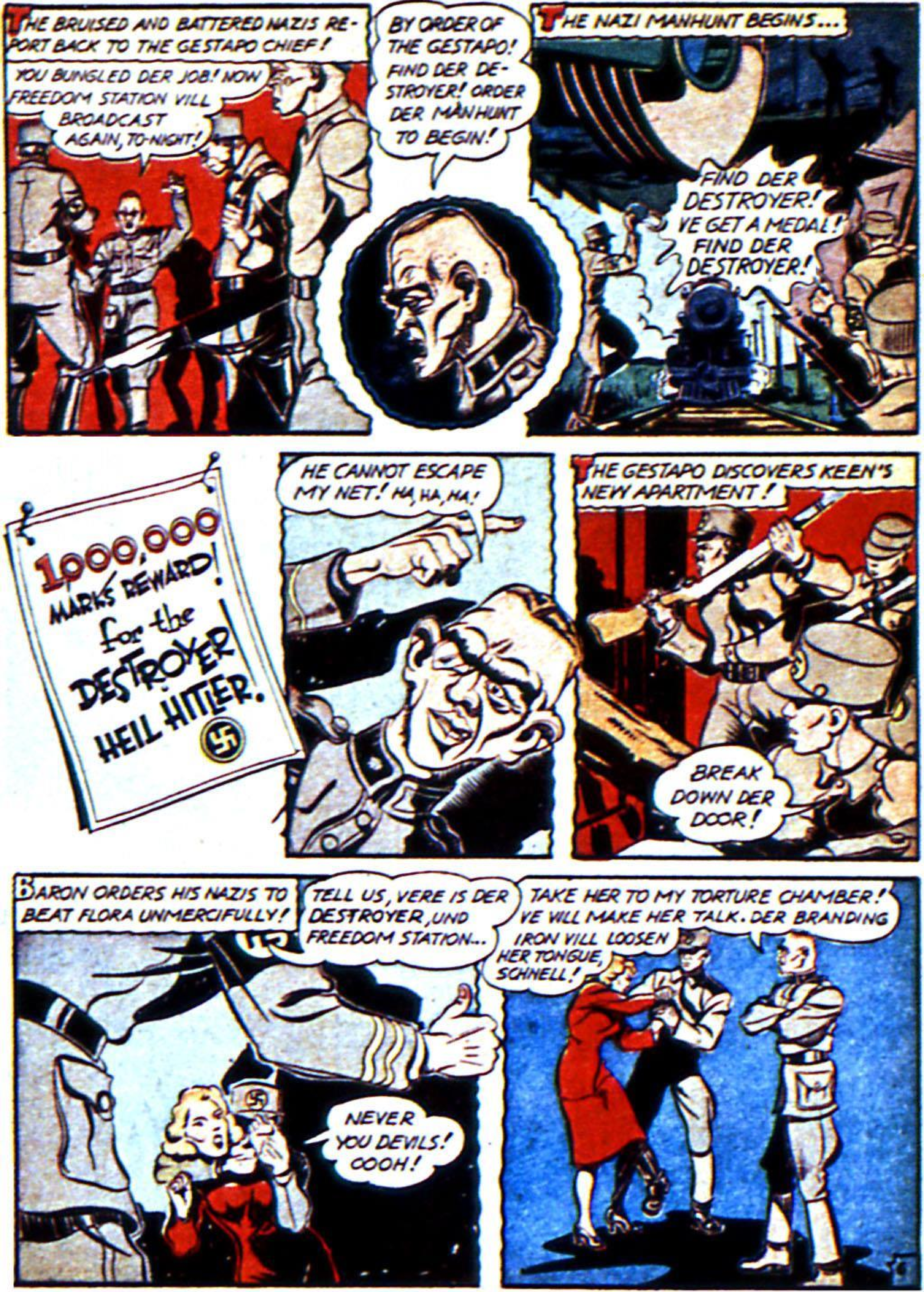

The DESTROYER
From the famous character created by STAN LEE
EVEN IN GERMANY BRAVE VOICES CRY OUT FOR FREEDOM! FOLLOW THE MIGHTY DESTROYER AS HE DARES TO BATTLE AND DEFY THE HORDES OF HITLER'S KILLERS! LISTEN TO HIS VOICE RINGING OUT FOR JUSTICE AND LIBERTY. THOUGH DEATH AND HORROR LOOM BEFORE HIS STARTLED EYES! COME, HOLD YOUR BREATH, TURN THE PAGE, READ ON—

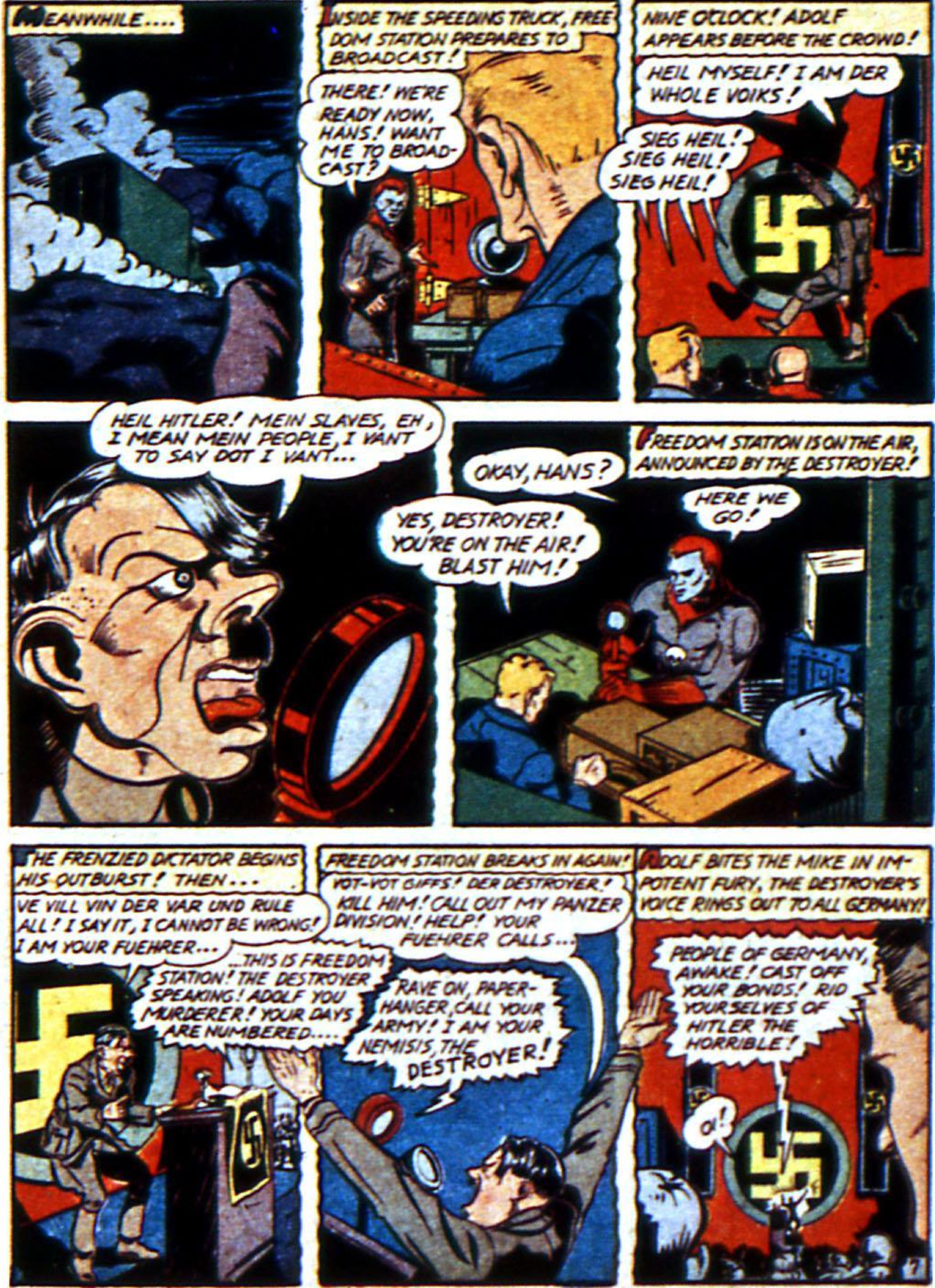

IN BERLIN THE BROWNSHIRTS BROWBEAT THE PEOPLE TO MAKE THEM LISTEN TO BROADCASTS OF THEIR MAD DICTATOR!
DER FUEHRER SPEAKS TO-NIGHT! TO THE SPORTSPALAST, SCHWINE, UND LISTEN! HEIL HITLER!
WHILE IN HIS NEW APARTMENT, KEEN MARLOWE, THE MIGHTY DESTROYER, AND FLORA VON BANGOR, LISTEN IN!
ACHTUNG! GO TO DER SPORTSPALAST! THE FUEHER SPEAKS SOON! HEIL HITLER!
LET'S GO HEAR HIM RAVE, KEEN!
SO THE PHONEY IS DUE TO LIE SOME-MORE!
IN HIS PALACE, ADOLF AMUSES HIMSELF!
GOERING AND GOEBBELS COME CALLING...
HOW DO YOU SCHPELL "I AM DER BOSS!"
HEIL! DER FUEHRER ISS BOSS! WE ALL LOVE HIM! HEIL HITLER!
HERE MEIN DARLINK FUEHRER! I WROTE IT ALL AUDT!
GOOT! I SPEECH!
KEEN AND FLORA COME FOR A GOOD LAUGH!
DER PHOOEY SPEAKS! HA-HA, FUNNY, ISN'T IT KEEN?
UH UH, FUNNY AND TRAGIC!

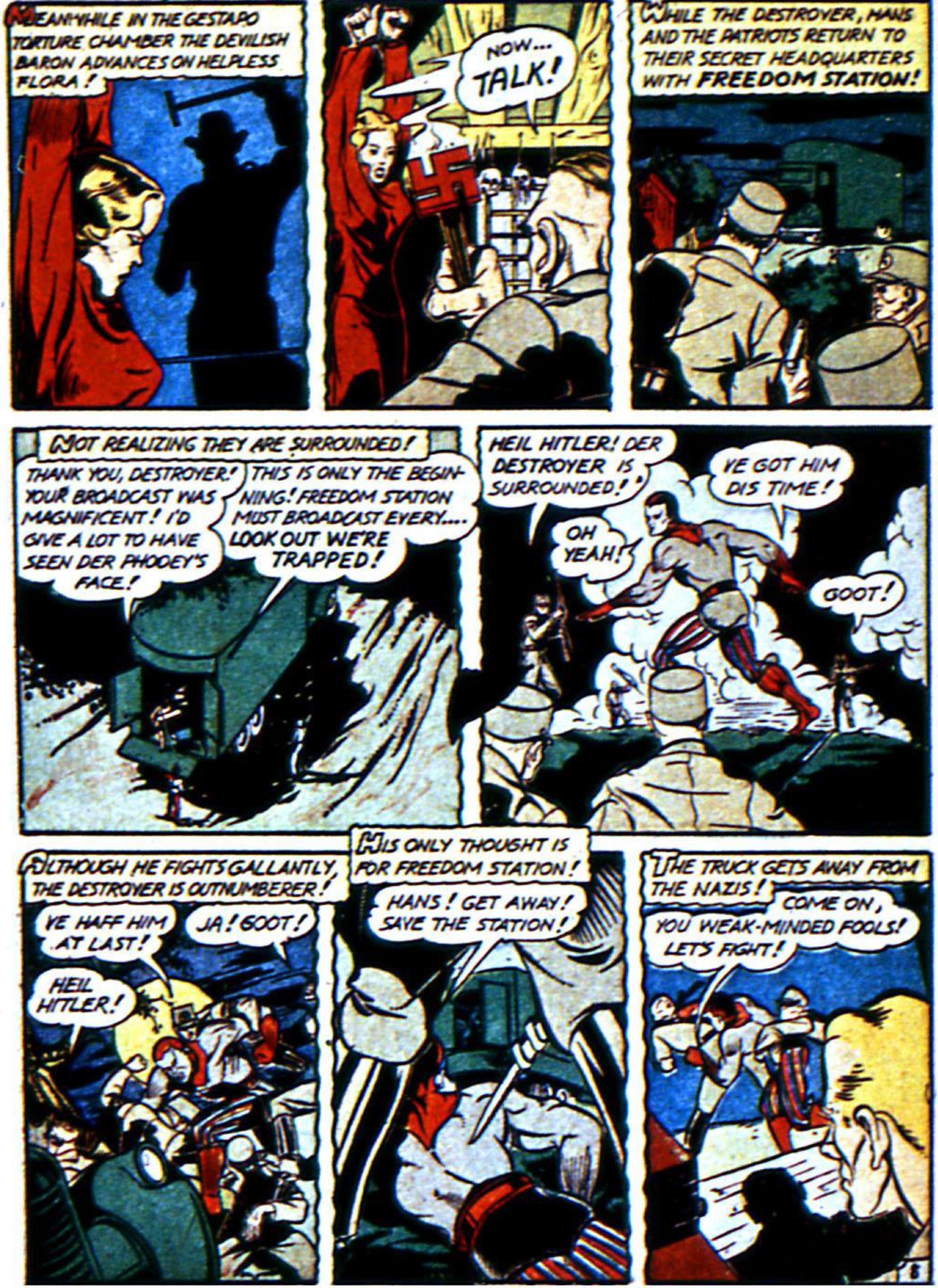

SALUTE DER FUEHRER OR VE PUT YOU IN CONCENTRATION CAMP!
I AM BOSS! I AM DER ONLY BOSS! YOU MUST DO AS I SAY- I AM TWO BOSSES!
YOU'RE A NUT! YOU'RE TWO NUTS!
ADOLPH IS AMAZED AND ENRAGED AT THE SUDDEN HECKLING VOICE FROM NO WHERE!
AND I CAN DO NO WRONG! I AM A GENIUS! I AM--
VOT ISS?
YOU'RE A FUGITIVE FROM A 'WACKY FACTORY,.. SIGN OFF!
IN WILD FURY ADOLPH SUMMONS HIS HENCHMEN!
HIS SLAVES ARE AWE-STRICKEN BY THEIR MASTER'S RAGE!
PLEASE BE CALM DER FUEHRER!
THAT VOICE YOU HEARD, FLORA, COMES FROM FREEDOM STATION!
DER FUEHRER IS TAKEN HOME WEEPING!

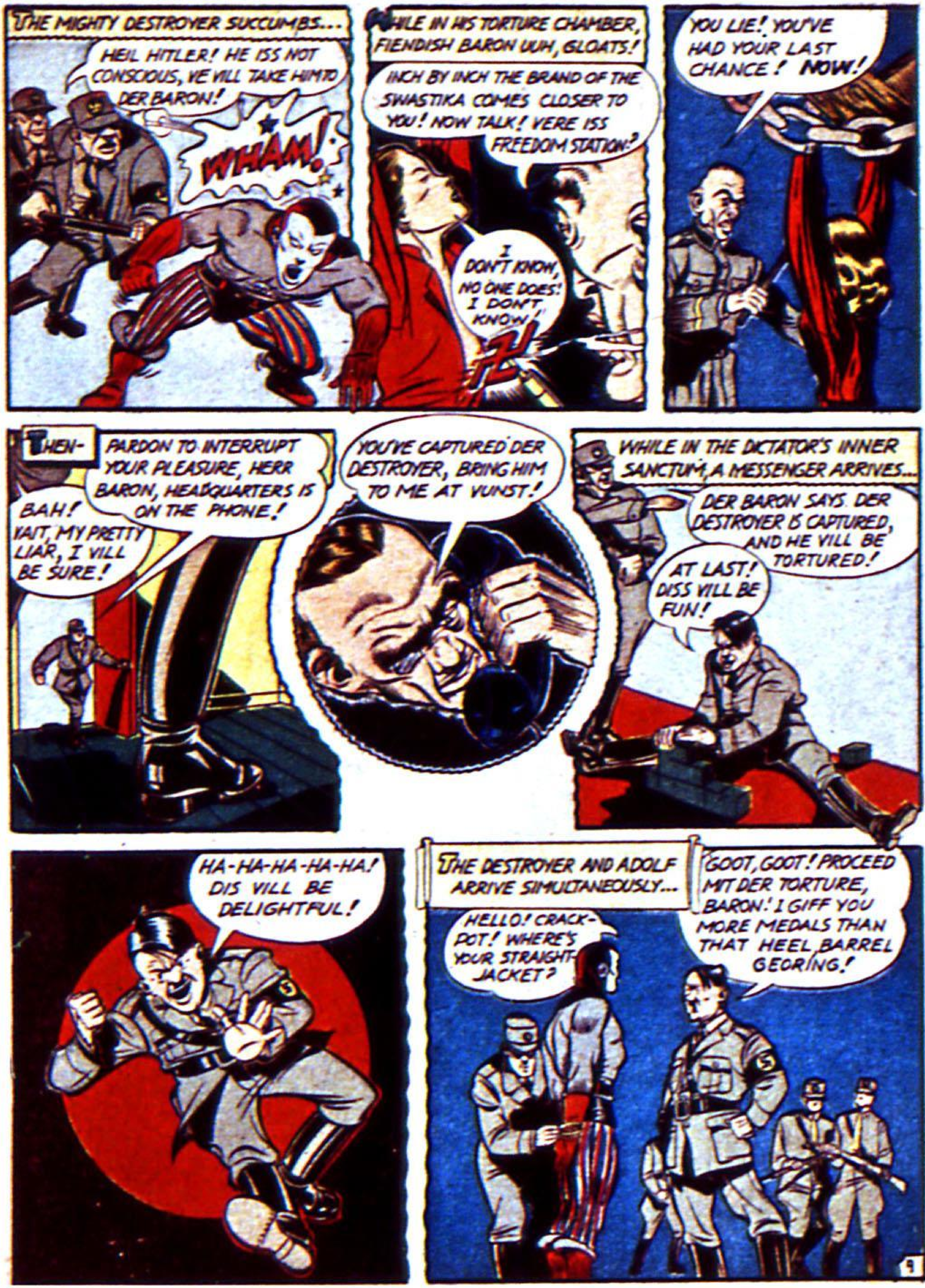

COME IN, YOU DUMKOPF! VOT GIFFS MIT DIS VOICE VICH INTERRUPTED MY SPEECHING?
I BRING YOU NICE AIRPLANE, UND I---
LATER, HITLER SUMMONS DREADED BARON UUH!
I AM DER ONLY BOSS! CATCH DIS MAN WHO INTERRUPTED ME ON THE RADIO! OR YOU DIE TOO!
JA! JA, MEIN FUEHRER!
IT ISS THE WORK OF DER DESTROYER! BRING HIM TO ME DEAD OR ALIVE! FAIL AND YOU DIE! GO PEEG!
THE DICTATOR DEMANDS THE LIFE OF THE DESTROYER!
I VILL CATCH DER DESTROYER! HE IS THE LEADER OF DER SECRET FREEDOM STATION!
BARON UUH MAKES A VOW!
FREEDOM STATION! BROADCASTING NIGHTLY FROM A DIFFERENT LOCATION, TELLING THE GERMAN PEOPLE THE TRUTH!
WE NEED MEN LIKE YOU, DESTROYER!
THANKS, HANS!
OVERTHROW THESE BROWNSHIRTED KILLERS! THEY ARE RUTHLESS MADMAN! RULE THEM OUT AND WE SHALL HAVE PEACE AND DEMOCRACY!
THE DESTROYER BEGINS THE FREEDOM STATION TALK!
OPEN UP IN DERE!
THE GESTAPO! THEY'VE FOUND US!
SUDDENLY A KNOCK AT THE DOOR!
THE NAZIS CRASH THE DOOR!
COME ON BOYS, AND PLAY PATTY-CAKE!
GET DER DESTROYER!

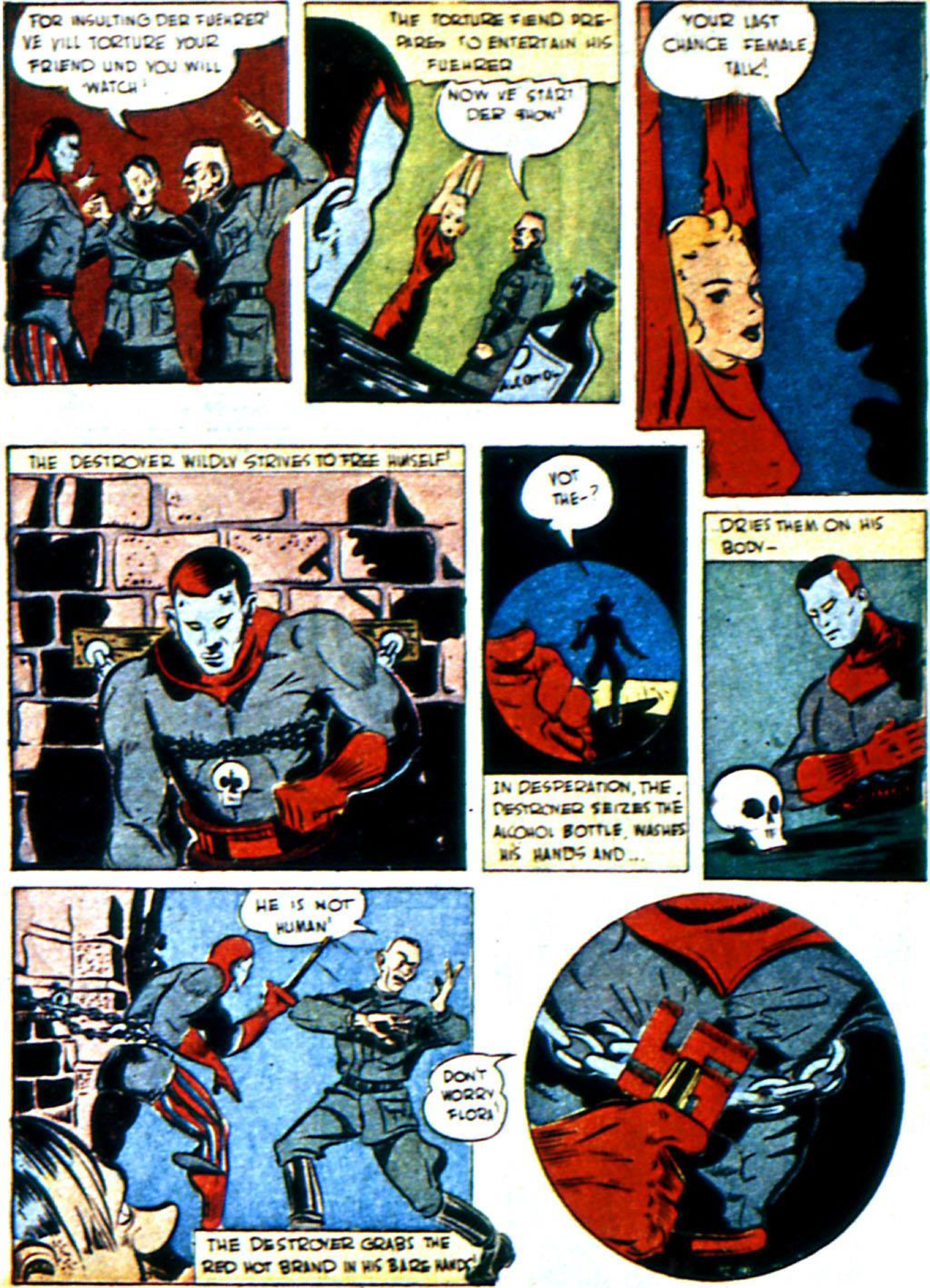

THE DESTROYER TEARS INTO THE BROWNSHIRTS...
COME ON YOU SPAWN OF THE DEVIL!
I'LL GET YOU LATER YOU POLECAT!
THE DESTROYER AND PATRIOTS FINISH OFF THE CHICKEN-HEARTED STORM-TROOPERS.
YOU RATS ARE ONLY BRAVE WHEN OU'RE HITTING WOMEN AND CHILDREN!
BARON UUH RUNS IN TERROR FROM THE DESTROYER'S WRATH!
AT THE DESTROYER'S COMMAND THE NAZIS TALK TO ALL-OF-GERMANY OVER THE WAVELENGTH OF FREEDOM STATION!
VE VANT DEMOCRACY NOT DICTATORS!
THE DESTROYER AND HANS PREPARE TO MOVE FREEDOM STATION TO A NEW LOCATION!
HURRY, THE GESTAPO WILL BE SENT AFTER US BY BARON UUH!
YOU'RE RIGHT DESTROYER! WE'VE GOT TO MOVE FAST!
FREEDOM STATION IS MOVED IN THE NICK OF TIME!
STEP ON IT HANS! TAKE TO THE WOODS, THIS EQUIPMENT IS PRECIOUS!

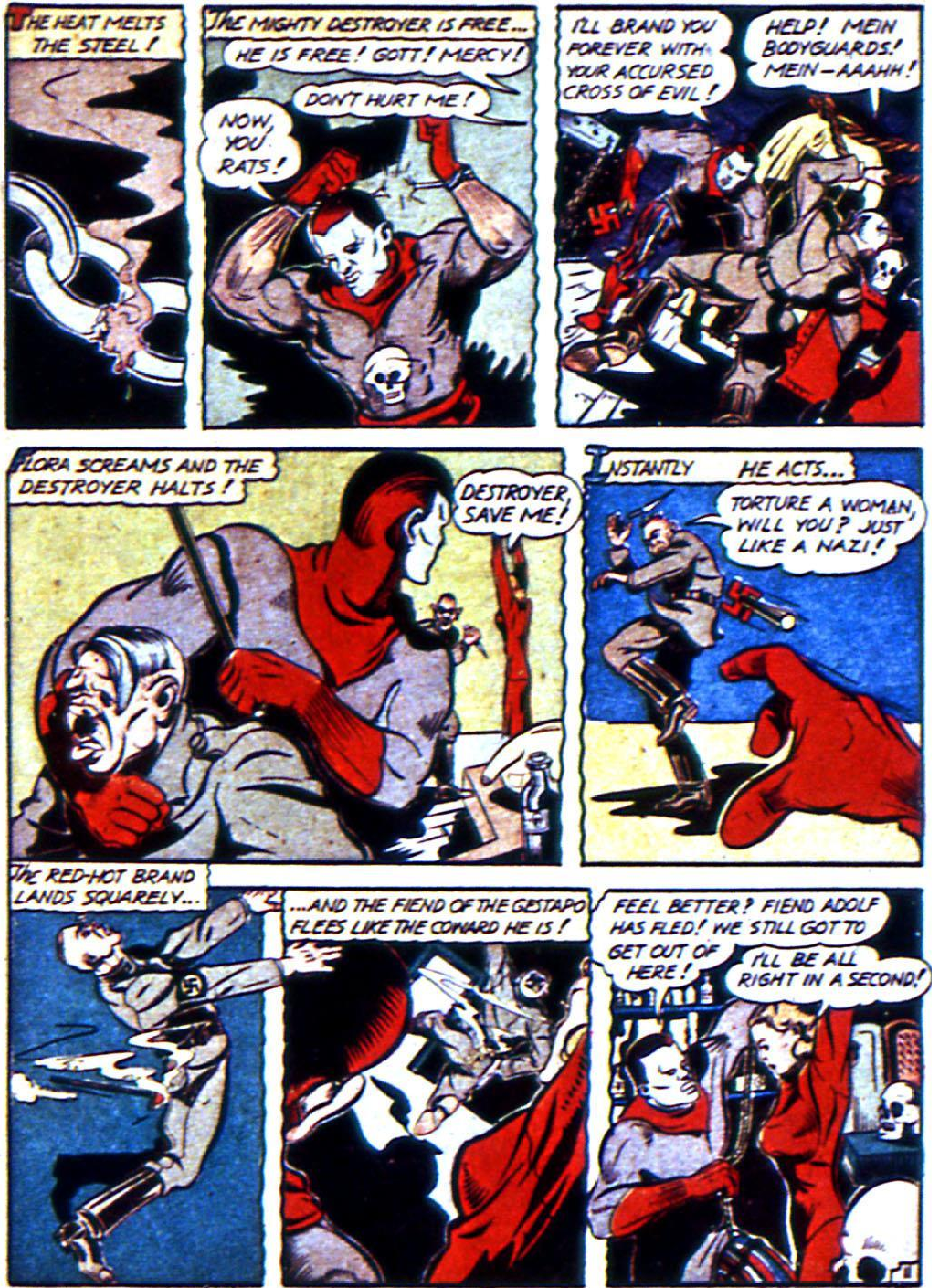

THE BRUISED AND BATTERED NAZIS REPORT BACK TO THE GESTAPO CHIEF!
YOU BUNGLED DER JOB! NOW FREEDOM STATION VILL BROADCAST AGAIN, TO-NIGHT!
BY ORDER OF THE GESTAPO! FIND DER DESTROYER! ORDER DER MANHUNT TO BEGIN!
THE NAZI MANHUNT BEGINS...
FIND DER DESTROYER! VE GET A MEDAL! FIND DER DESTROYER!
1,000,000 MARKS REWARD! for the DESTROYER HEIL HITLER.
HE CANNOT ESCAPE MY NET! HA, HA, HA!
THE GESTAPO DISCOVERS KEEN'S NEW APARTMENT!
BREAK DOWN DER DOOR!
BARON ORDERS HIS NAZIS TO BEAT FLORA UNMERCIFULLY!
TELL US, VERE IS DER DESTROYER, UND FREEDOM STATION...
NEVER YOU DEVILS! OOOH!
TAKE HER TO MY TORTURE CHAMBER! VE VILL MAKE HER TALK. DER BRANDING IRON VILL LOOSEN HER TONGUE, SCHNELL!

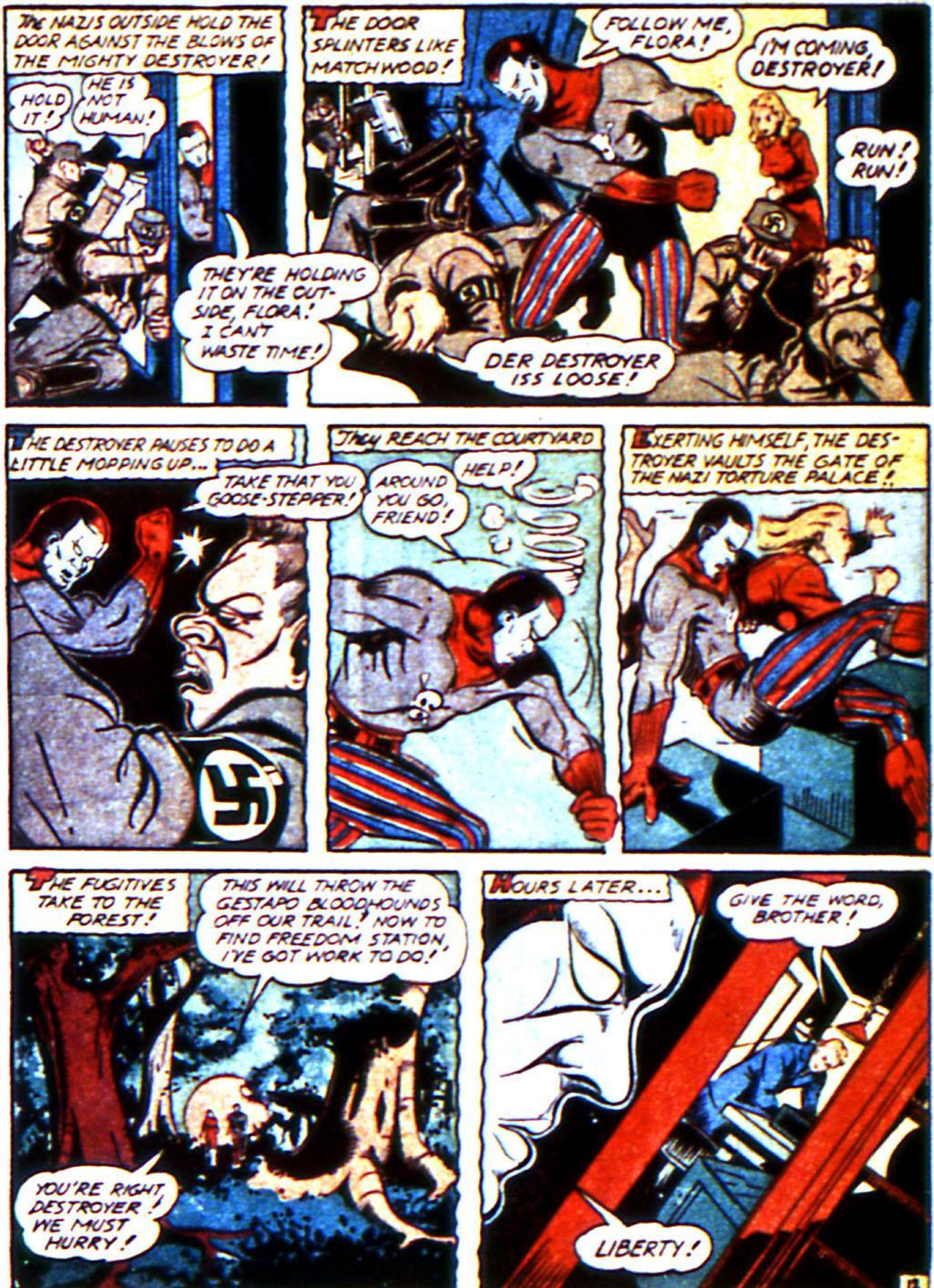

MEANWHILE....
INSIDE THE SPEEDING TRUCK, FREEDOM STATION PREPARES TO BROADCAST!
THERE! WE'RE READY NOW, HANS! WANT ME TO BROADCAST?
NINE O'CLOCK! ADOLF APPEARS BEFORE THE CROWD!
HEIL MYSELF! I AM DER WHOLE VOIKS!
SIEG HEIL! SIEG HEIL! SIEG HEIL!
HEIL HITLER! MEIN SLAVES, EH, I MEAN MEIN PEOPLE, I VANT TO SAY DOT I VANT...
FREEDOM STATION IS ON THE AIR, ANNOUNCED BY THE DESTROYER!
OKAY, HANS?
YES, DESTROYER! YOU'RE ON THE AIR! BLAST HIM!
HERE WE GO!
THE FRENZIED DICTATOR BEGINS HIS OUTBURST! THEN...
VE VILL VIN DER VAR UND RULE ALL! I SAY IT, I CANNOT BE WRONG! I AM YOUR FUEHRER...
...THIS IS FREEDOM STATION! THE DESTROYER SPEAKING! ADOLF YOU MURDERER! YOUR DAYS ARE NUMBERED....
FREEDOM STATION BREAKS IN AGAIN!
VOT-VOT GIFFS! DER DESTROYER! KILL HIM! CALL OUT MY PANZER DIVISION! HELP! YOUR FUEHRER CALLS...
RAVE ON, PAPER-HANGER, CALL YOUR ARMY! I AM YOUR NEMISIS, THE DESTROYER!
ADOLF BITES THE MIKE IN IMPOTENT FURY, THE DESTROYER'S VOICE RINGS OUT TO ALL GERMANY!
PEOPLE OF GERMANY, AWAKE! CAST OFF YOUR BONDS! RID YOURSELVES OF HITLER THE HORRIBLE!
O!

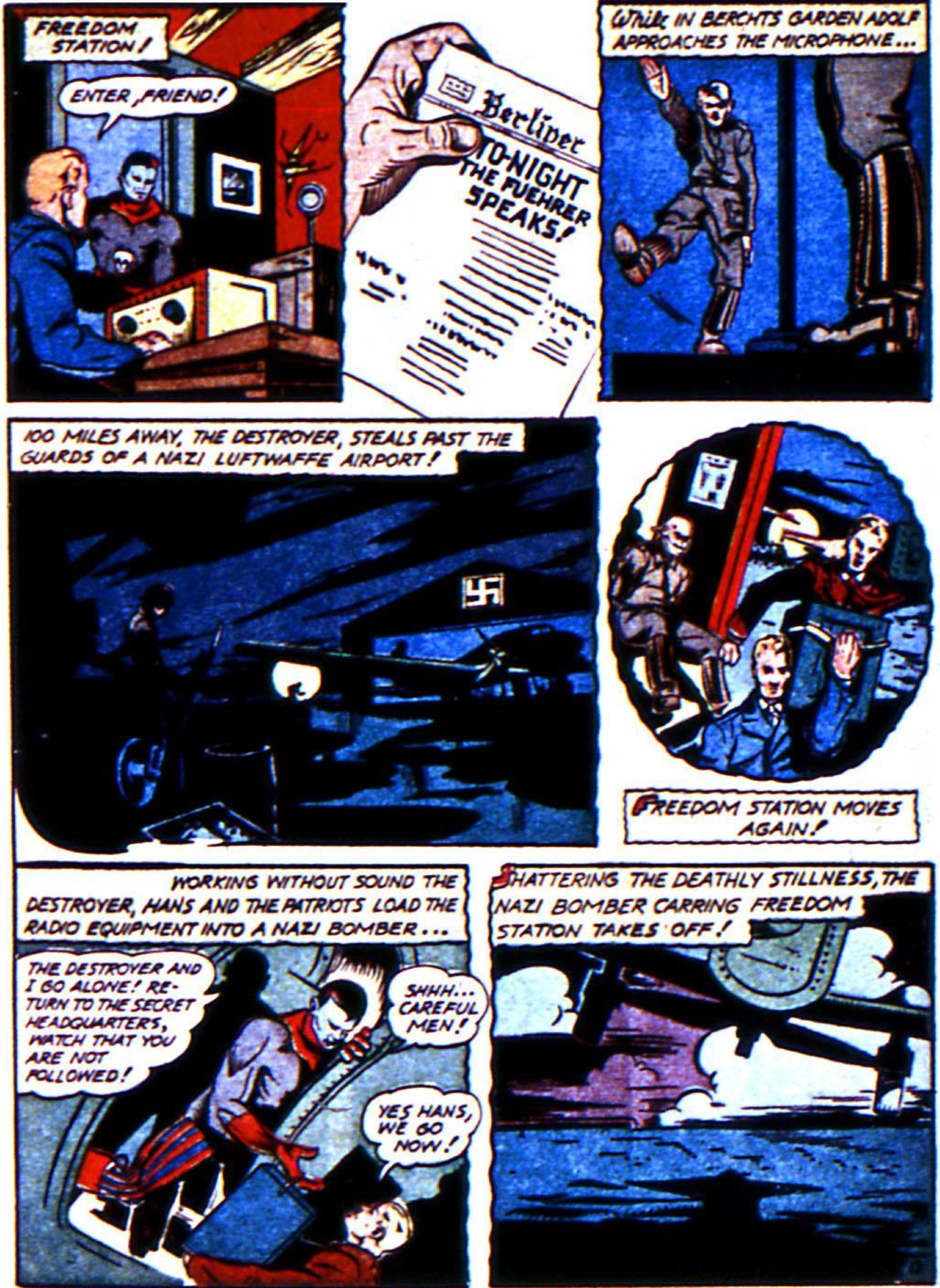

MEANWHILE IN THE GESTAPO TORTURE CHAMBER THE DEVILISH BARON ADVANCES ON HELPLESS FLORA!
NOW... TALK!
WHILE THE DESTROYER, HANS AND THE PATRIOTS RETURN TO THEIR SECRET HEADQUARTERS WITH FREEDOM STATION!
NOT REALIZING THEY ARE SURROUNDED!
THANK YOU, DESTROYER! YOUR BROADCAST WAS MAGNIFICENT! I'D GIVE A LOT TO HAVE SEEN DER PHOOEY'S FACE!
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING! FREEDOM STATION MUST BROADCAST EVERY.... LOOK OUT WE'RE TRAPPED!
HEIL HITLER! DER DESTROYER IS SURROUNDED!
VE GOT HIM DIS TIME!
OH YEAH!
GOOT!
ALTHOUGH HE FIGHTS GALLANTLY, THE DESTROYER IS OUTNUMBERER!
VE HAFF HIM AT LAST!
JA! GOOT!
HEIL HITLER!
HIS ONLY THOUGHT IS FOR FREEDOM STATION!
HANS! GET AWAY! SAVE THE STATION!
THE TRUCK GETS AWAY FROM THE NAZIS!
COME ON, YOU WEAK-MINDED FOOLS! LET'S FIGHT!

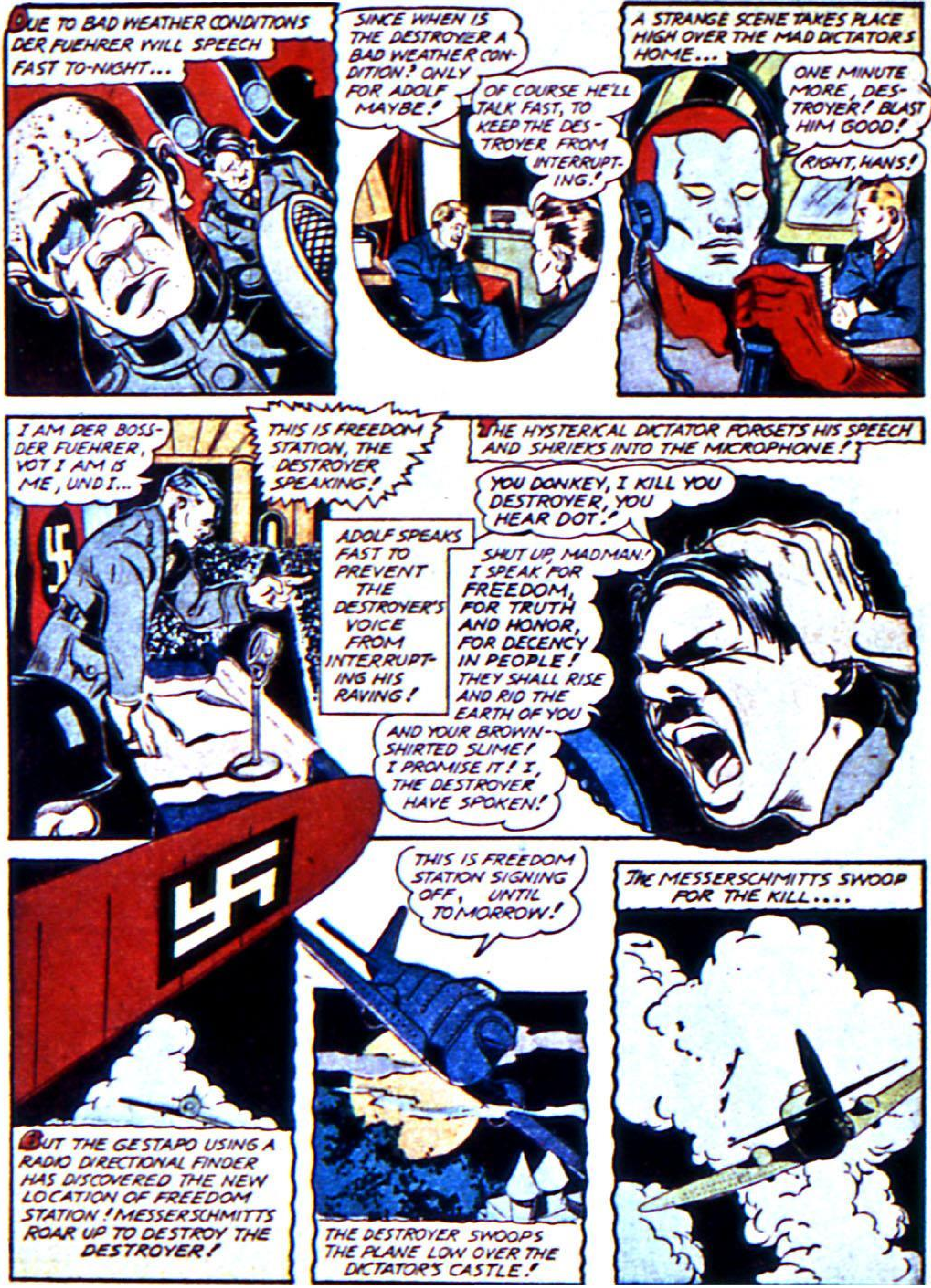

THE MIGHTY DESTROYER SUCCUMBS...
HEIL HITLER! HE ISS NOT CONSCIOUS, VE VILL TAKE HIM TO DER BARON!
WHAM!
WHILE IN HIS TORTURE CHAMBER, FIENDISH BARON UUH, GLOATS!
INCH BY INCH THE BRAND OF THE SWASTIKA COMES CLOSER TO YOU! NOW TALK! VERE ISS FREEDOM STATION?
I DON'T KNOW, NO ONE DOES! I DON'T KNOW!
YOU LIE! YOU'VE HAD YOUR LAST CHANCE! NOW!
THEN-
PARDON TO INTERRUPT YOUR PLEASURE, HERR BARON, HEADQUARTERS IS ON THE PHONE!
BAH! VAIT, MY PRETTY LIAR, I VILL BE SURE!
YOU'VE CAPTURED DER DESTROYER, BRING HIM TO ME AT VUNST!
WHILE IN THE DICTATOR'S INNER SANCTUM, A MESSENGER ARRIVES...
DER BARON SAYS. DER DESTROYER IS CAPTURED, AND HE VILL BE TORTURED!
AT LAST! DISS VILL BE FUN!
HA-HA-HA-HA-HA! DIS VILL BE DELIGHTFUL!
THE DESTROYER AND ADOLF ARRIVE SIMULTANEOUSLY...
HELLO! CRACK-POT! WHERE'S YOUR STRAIGHT-JACKET?
GOOT, GOOT! PROCEED MIT DER TORTURE, BARON! I GIFF YOU MORE MEDALS THAN THAT HEEL BARREL GEORING!

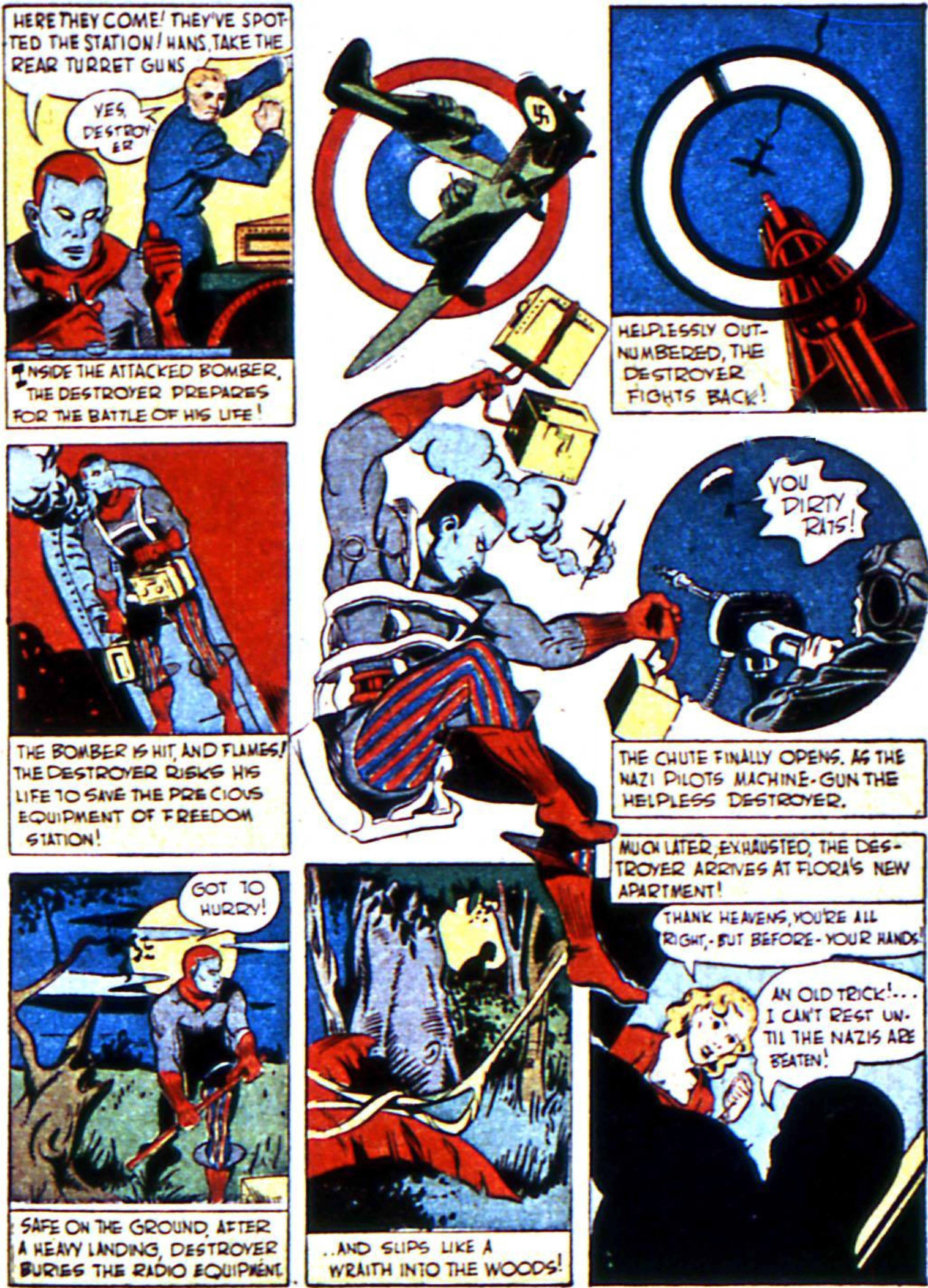

FOR INSULTING DER FUEHRER! VE VILL TORTURE YOUR FRIEND UND YOU WILL WATCH!
THE TORTURE FIEND PREPARES TO ENTERTAIN HIS FUEHRER
NOW VE START DER SHOW!
ALCOHOL
YOUR LAST CHANCE FEMALE TALK!
THE DESTROYER WILDLY STRIVES TO FREE HIMSELF!
VOT THE-?
IN DESPERATION, THE DESTROYER SEIZES THE ALCOHOL BOTTLE, WASHES HIS HANDS AND...
...DRIES THEM ON HIS BODY-
HE IS NOT HUMAN!
DON'T WORRY FLORA!
THE DESTROYER GRABS THE RED HOT BRAND IN HIS BARE HANDS!

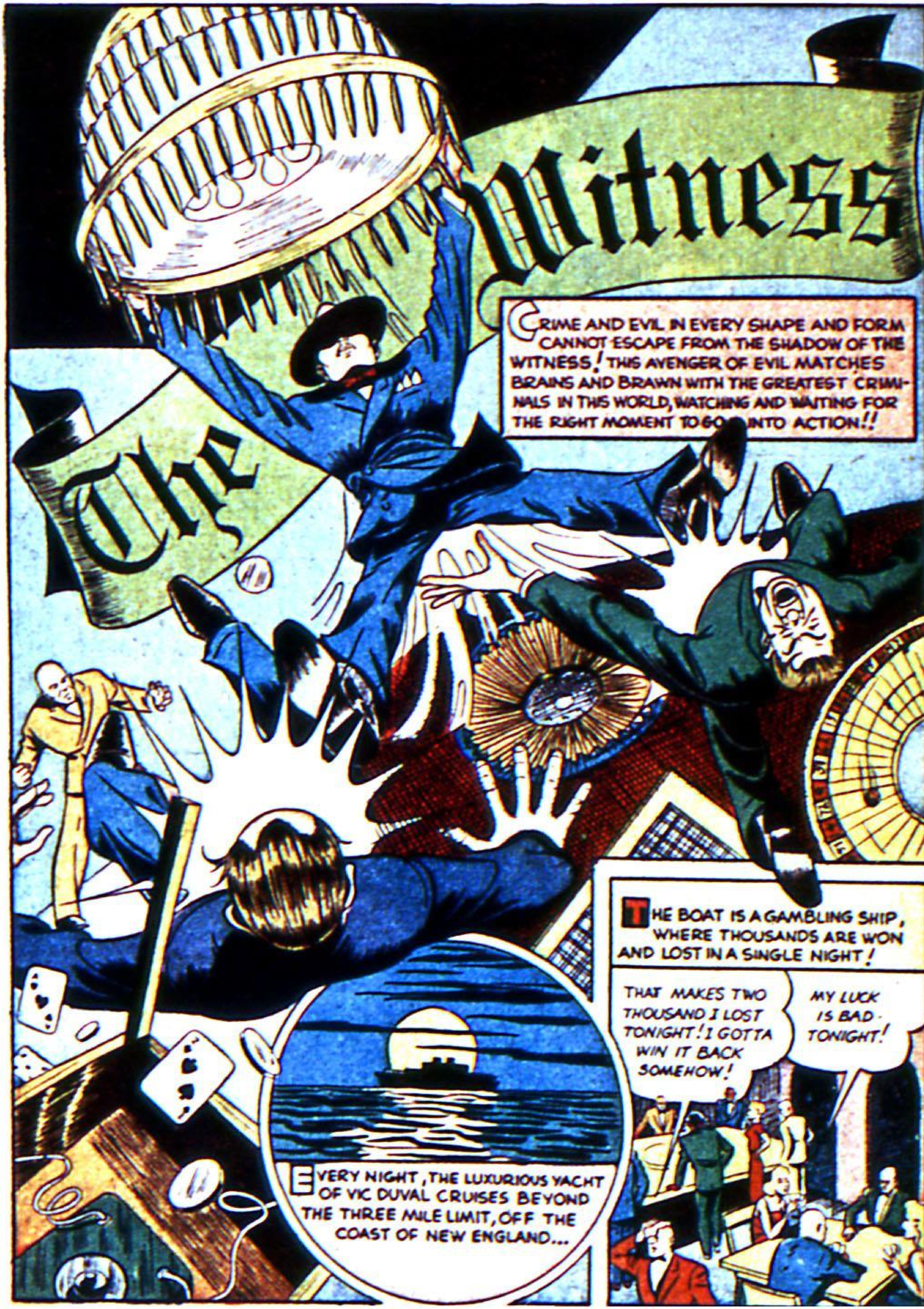

THE HEAT MELTS THE STEEL!
THE MIGHTY DESTROYER IS FREE...
HE IS FREE! GOTT! MERCY!
DON'T HURT ME!
NOW, YOU RATS!
I'LL BRAND YOU FOREVER WITH YOUR ACCURSED CROSS OF EVIL!
HELP! MEIN BODYGUARDS! MEIN—AAAHH!
FLORA SCREAMS AND THE DESTROYER HALTS!
DESTROYER, SAVE ME!
INSTANTLY HE ACTS...
TORTURE A WOMAN, WILL YOU? JUST LIKE A NAZI!
THE RED-HOT BRAND LANDS SQUARELY...
...AND THE FIEND OF THE GESTAPO FLEES LIKE THE COWARD HE IS!
FEEL BETTER? FIEND ADOLF HAS FLED! WE STILL GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE!
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT IN A SECOND!

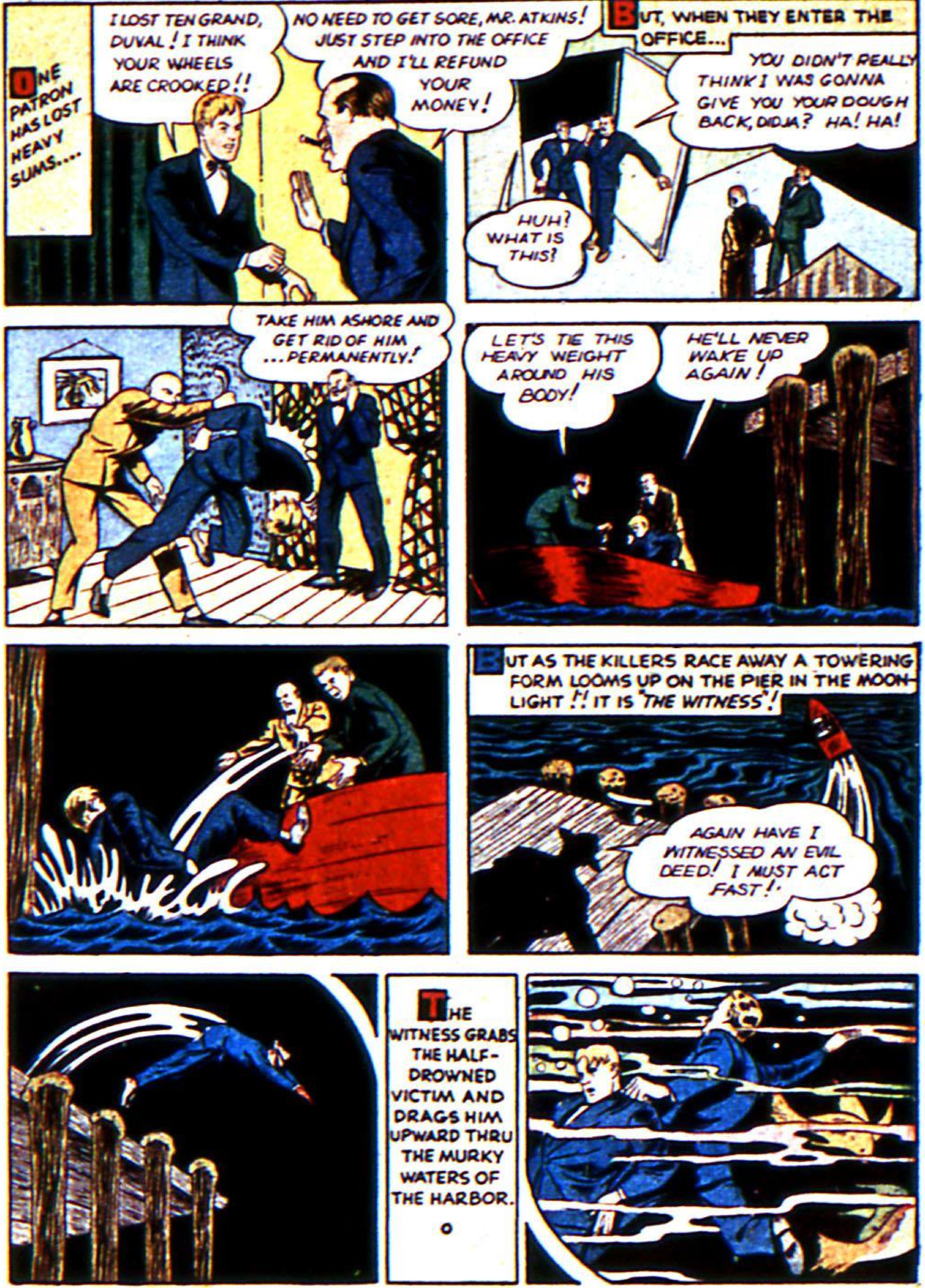

THE NAZIS OUTSIDE HOLD THE DOOR AGAINST THE BLOWS OF THE MIGHTY DESTROYER!
HOLD IT!
HE IS NOT HUMAN!
THEY'RE HOLDING IT ON THE OUTSIDE, FLORA! I CAN'T WASTE TIME!
THE DOOR SPLINTERS LIKE MATCHWOOD!
FOLLOW ME, FLORA!
I'M COMING, DESTROYER!
RUN! RUN!
DER DESTROYER ISS LOOSE!
THE DESTROYER PAUSES TO DO A LITTLE MOPPING UP...
TAKE THAT YOU GOOSE-STEPPER!
THEY REACH THE COURTYARD
HELP!
AROUND YOU GO, FRIEND!
EXERTING HIMSELF, THE DESTROYER VAULTS THE GATE OF THE NAZI TORTURE PALACE!
THE FUGITIVES TAKE TO THE FOREST!
THIS WILL THROW THE GESTAPO BLOODHOUNDS OFF OUR TRAIL! NOW TO FIND FREEDOM STATION, I'VE GOT WORK TO DO!
YOU'RE RIGHT, DESTROYER! WE MUST HURRY!
HOURS LATER...
GIVE THE WORD, BROTHER!
LIBERTY!

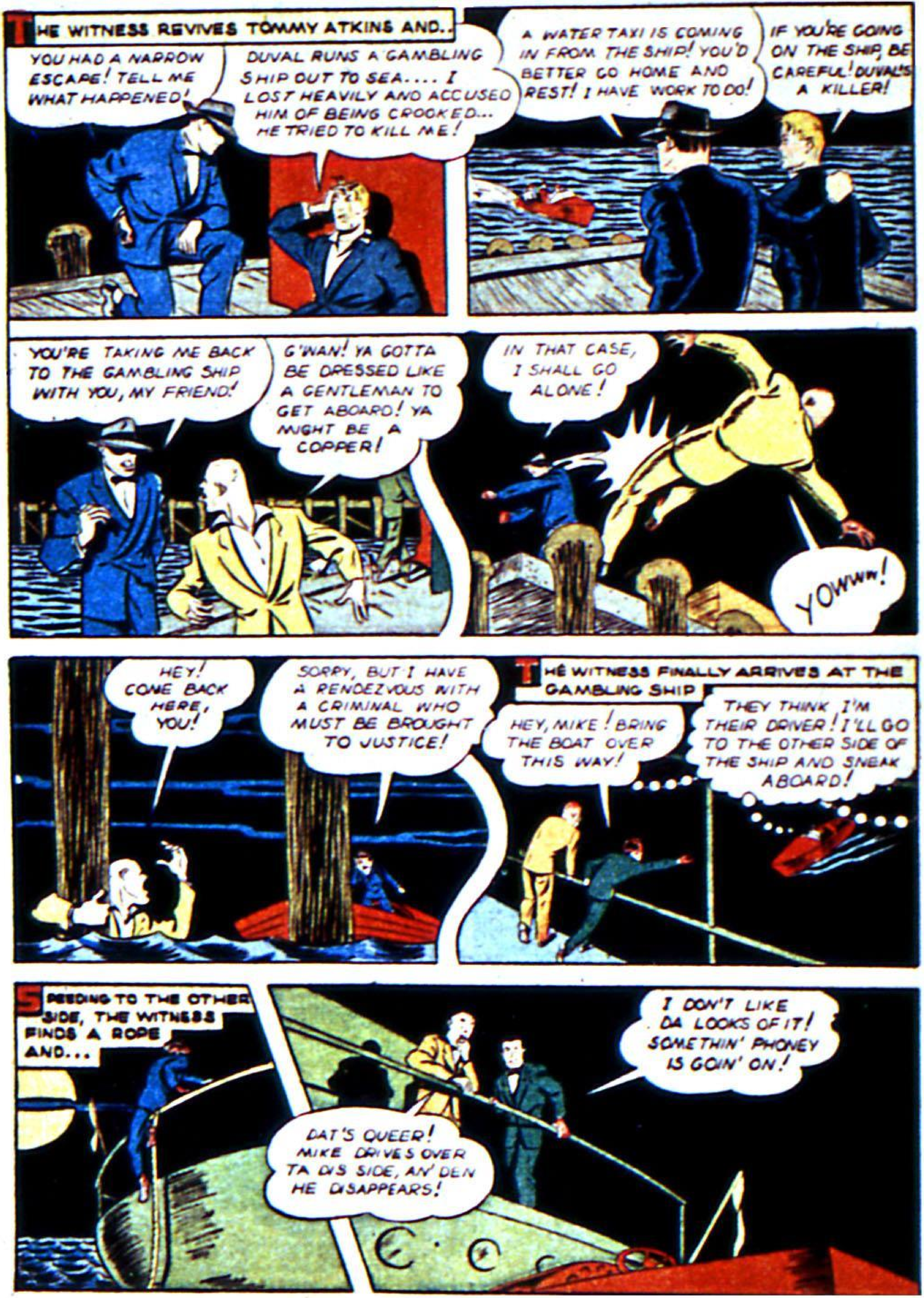

FREEDOM STATION!
ENTER, FRIEND!
Berliner
TO-NIGHT THE FUEHRER SPEAKS!
WHILE IN BERCHTS GARDEN ADOLF APPROACHES THE MICROPHONE...
100 MILES AWAY, THE DESTROYER, STEALS PAST THE GUARDS OF A NAZI LUFTWAFFE AIRPORT!
FREEDOM STATION MOVES AGAIN!
WORKING WITHOUT SOUND THE DESTROYER, HANS AND THE PATRIOTS LOAD THE RADIO EQUIPMENT INTO A NAZI BOMBER...
THE DESTROYER AND I GO ALONE! RETURN TO THE SECRET HEADQUARTERS, WATCH THAT YOU ARE NOT FOLLOWED!
SHHH... CAREFUL MEN!
YES HANS, WE GO NOW!
SHATTERING THE DEATHLY STILLNESS, THE NAZI BOMBER CARRING FREEDOM STATION TAKES OFF!

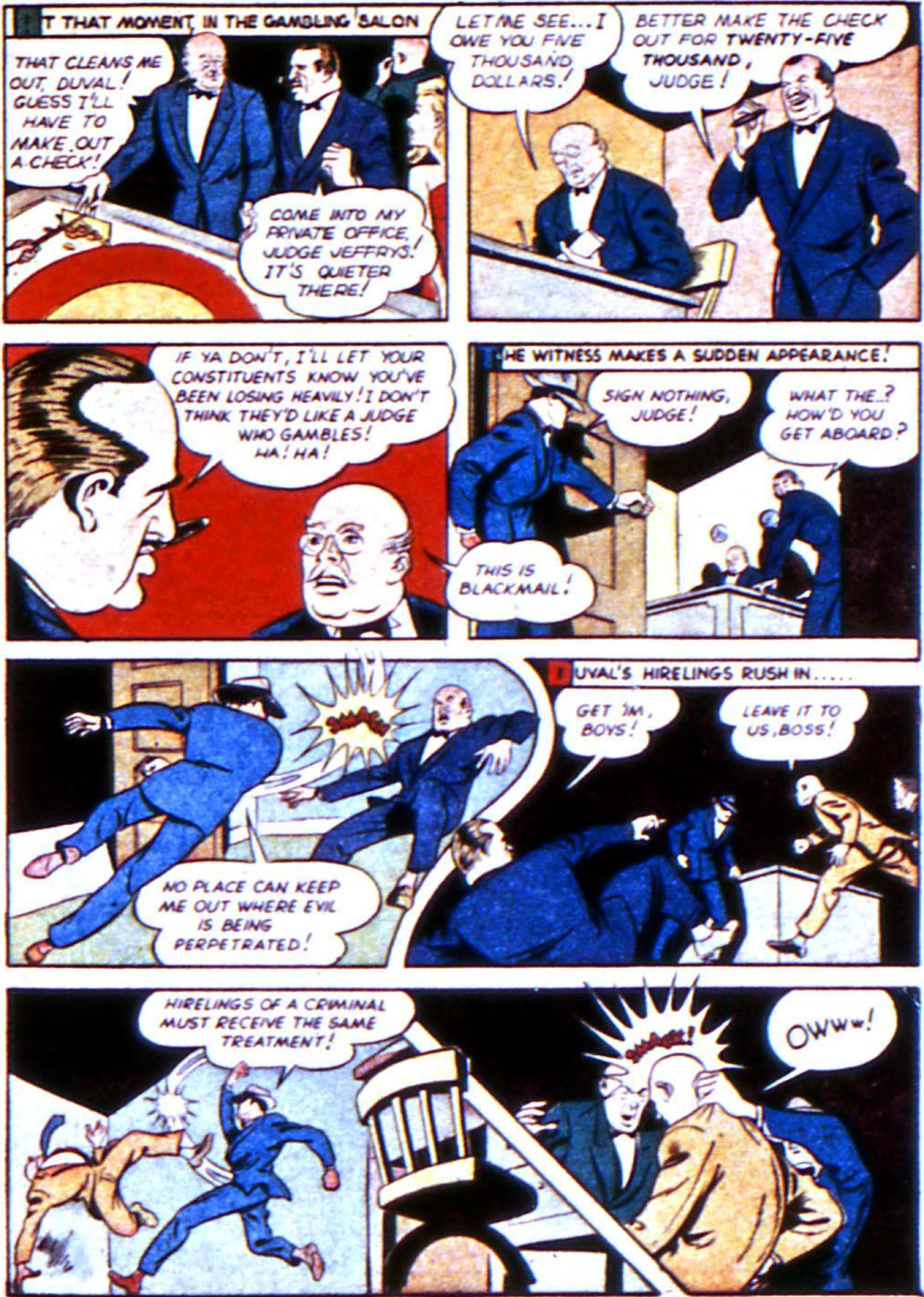

DUE TO BAD WEATHER CONDITIONS DER FUEHRER WILL SPEECH FAST TO-NIGHT...
SINCE WHEN IS THE DESTROYER A BAD WEATHER CONDITION? ONLY FOR ADOLF MAYBE!
OF COURSE HE'LL TALK FAST, TO KEEP THE DESTROYER FROM INTERRUPTING!
A STRANGE SCENE TAKES PLACE HIGH OVER THE MAD DICTATOR'S HOME...
ONE MINUTE MORE, DESTROYER! BLAST HIM GOOD!
RIGHT, HANS!
I AM DER BOSS-DER FUEHRER, VOT I AM IS ME, UND I...
THIS IS FREEDOM STATION, THE DESTROYER SPEAKING!
ADOLF SPEAKS FAST TO PREVENT THE DESTROYER'S VOICE FROM INTERRUPTING HIS RAVING!
THE HYSTERICAL DICTATOR FORGETS HIS SPEECH AND SHRIEKS INTO THE MICROPHONE!
YOU DONKEY, I KILL YOU DESTROYER, YOU HEAR DOT!
SHUT UP, MADMAN! I SPEAK FOR FREEDOM, FOR TRUTH AND HONOR, FOR DECENCY IN PEOPLE! THEY SHALL RISE AND RID THE EARTH OF YOU AND YOUR BROWN-SHIRTED SLIME! I PROMISE IT! I, THE DESTROYER HAVE SPOKEN!
BUT THE GESTAPO USING A RADIO DIRECTIONAL FINDER HAS DISCOVERED THE NEW LOCATION OF FREEDOM STATION! MESSERSCHMITTS ROAR UP TO DESTROY THE DESTROYER!
THIS IS FREEDOM STATION SIGNING OFF, UNTIL TOMORROW!
THE DESTROYER SWOOPS THE PLANE LOW OVER THE DICTATOR'S CASTLE!
THE MESSERSCHMITTS SWOOP FOR THE KILL....

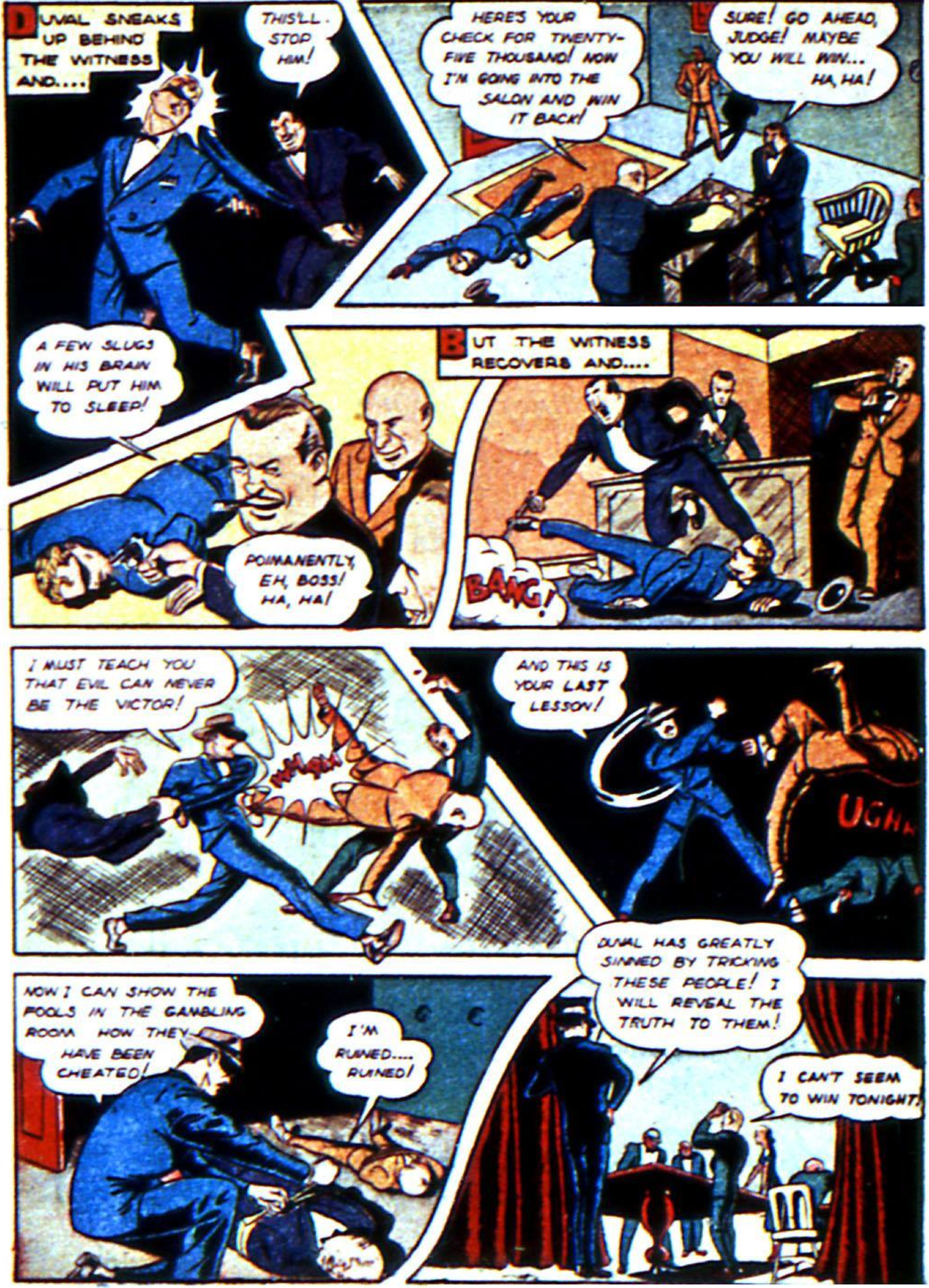

HERE THEY COME! THEY'VE SPOTTED THE STATION! HANS, TAKE THE REAR TURRET GUNS
YES, DESTROYER
INSIDE THE ATTACKED BOMBER, THE DESTROYER PREPARES FOR THE BATTLE OF HIS LIFE!
HELPLESSLY OUTNUMBERED, THE DESTROYER FIGHTS BACK!
THE BOMBER IS HIT, AND FLAMES! THE DESTROYER RISKS HIS LIFE TO SAVE THE PRECIOUS EQUIPMENT OF FREEDOM STATION!
YOU DIRTY RATS!
THE CHUTE FINALLY OPENS. AS THE NAZI PILOTS MACHINE-GUN THE HELPLESS DESTROYER.
GOT TO HURRY!
SAFE ON THE GROUND, AFTER A HEAVY LANDING, DESTROYER BURIES THE RADIO EQUIPMENT.
..AND SLIPS LIKE A WRAITH INTO THE WOODS!
MUCH LATER, EXHAUSTED, THE DESTROYER ARRIVES AT FLORA'S NEW APARTMENT!
THANK HEAVENS, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT,- BUT BEFORE- YOUR HANDS!
AN OLD TRICK!... I CAN'T REST UNTIL THE NAZIS ARE BEATEN!

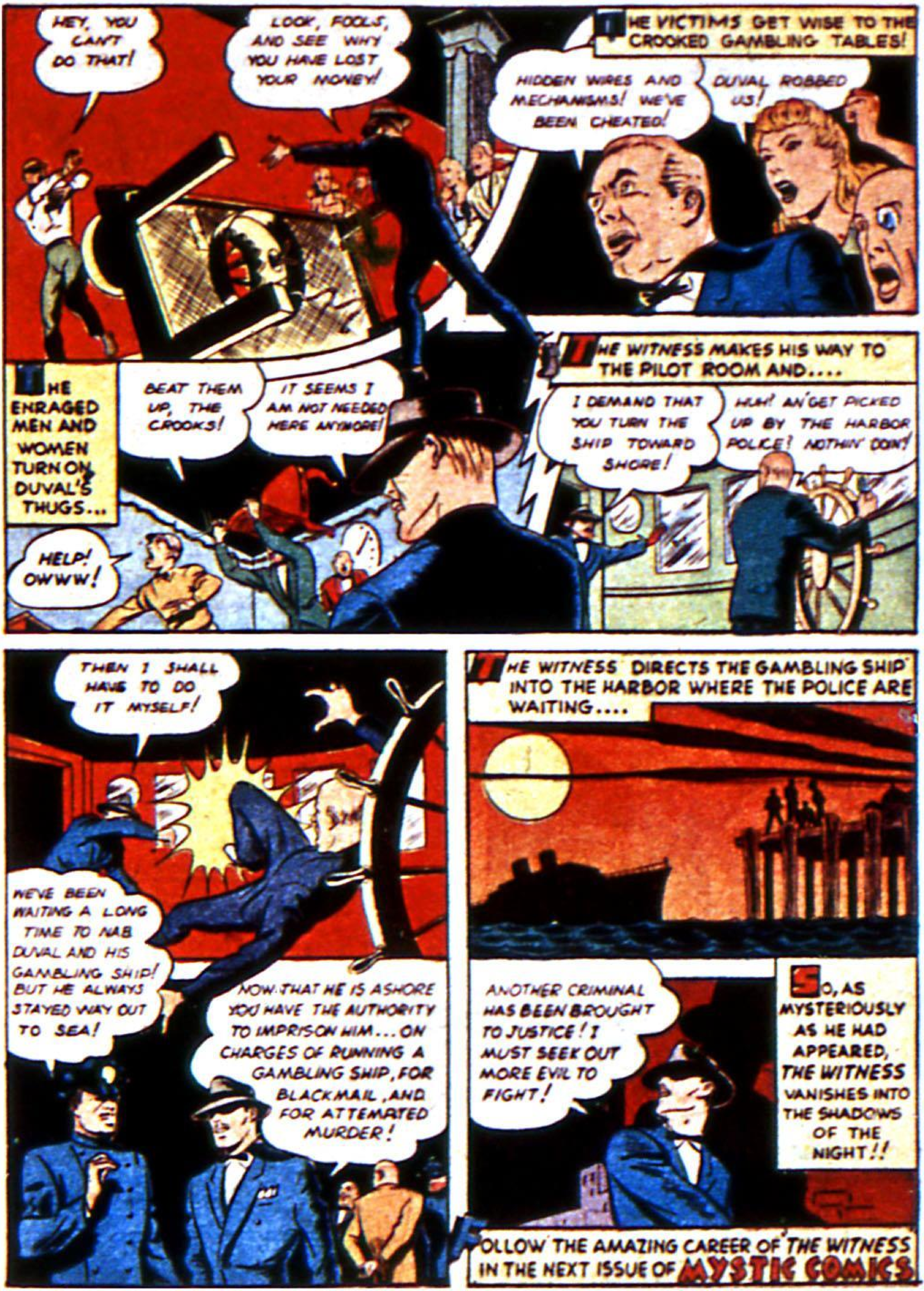

The Witness
CRIME AND EVIL IN EVERY SHAPE AND FORM CANNOT ESCAPE FROM THE SHADOW OF THE WITNESS! THIS AVENGER OF EVIL MATCHES BRAINS AND BRAWN WITH THE GREATEST CRIMINALS IN THIS WORLD, WATCHING AND WAITING FOR THE RIGHT MOMENT TO GO INTO ACTION!!
EVERY NIGHT, THE LUXURIOUS YACHT OF VIC DUVAL CRUISES BEYOND THE THREE MILE LIMIT, OFF THE COAST OF NEW ENGLAND...
THE BOAT IS A GAMBLING SHIP, WHERE THOUSANDS ARE WON AND LOST IN A SINGLE NIGHT!
THAT MAKES TWO THOUSAND I LOST TONIGHT! I GOTTA WIN IT BACK SOMEHOW!
MY LUCK IS BAD TONIGHT!

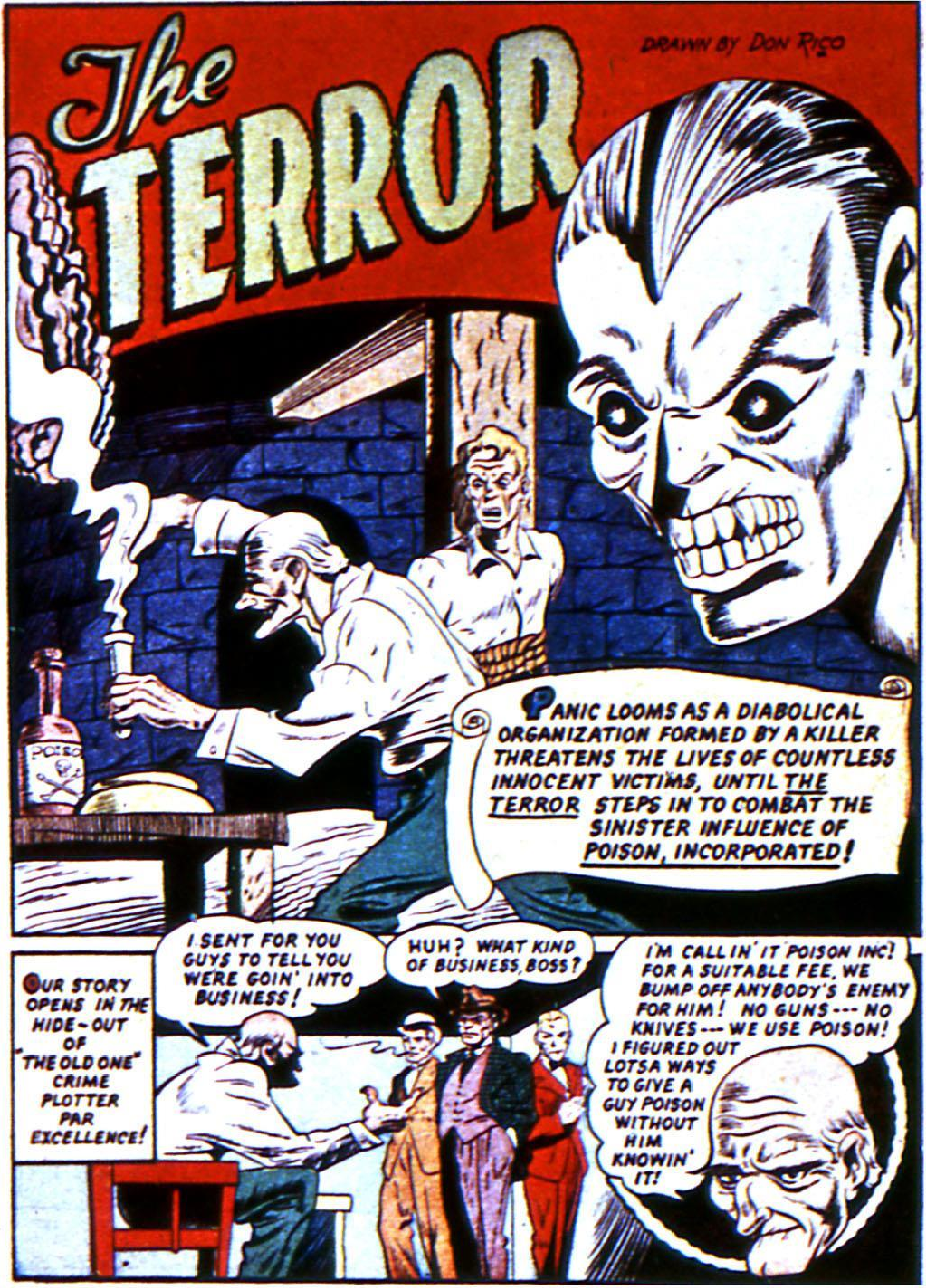

ONE PATRON HAS LOST HEAVY SUMS....
I LOST TEN GRAND, DUVAL! I THINK YOUR WHEELS ARE CROOKED!!
NO NEED TO GET SORE, MR. ATKINS! JUST STEP INTO THE OFFICE AND I'LL REFUND YOUR MONEY!
BUT, WHEN THEY ENTER THE OFFICE...
YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I WAS GONNA GIVE YOU YOUR DOUGH BACK, DIDJA? HA! HA!
HUH? WHAT IS THIS?
TAKE HIM ASHORE AND GET RID OF HIM ...PERMANENTLY!
LET'S TIE THIS HEAVY WEIGHT AROUND HIS BODY!
HE'LL NEVER WAKE UP AGAIN!
BUT AS THE KILLERS RACE AWAY A TOWERING FORM LOOMS UP ON THE PIER IN THE MOONLIGHT!! IT IS "THE WITNESS"!
AGAIN HAVE I WITNESSED AN EVIL DEED! I MUST ACT FAST!
THE WITNESS GRABS THE HALF-DROWNED VICTIM AND DRAGS HIM UPWARD THRU THE MURKY WATERS OF THE HARBOR.

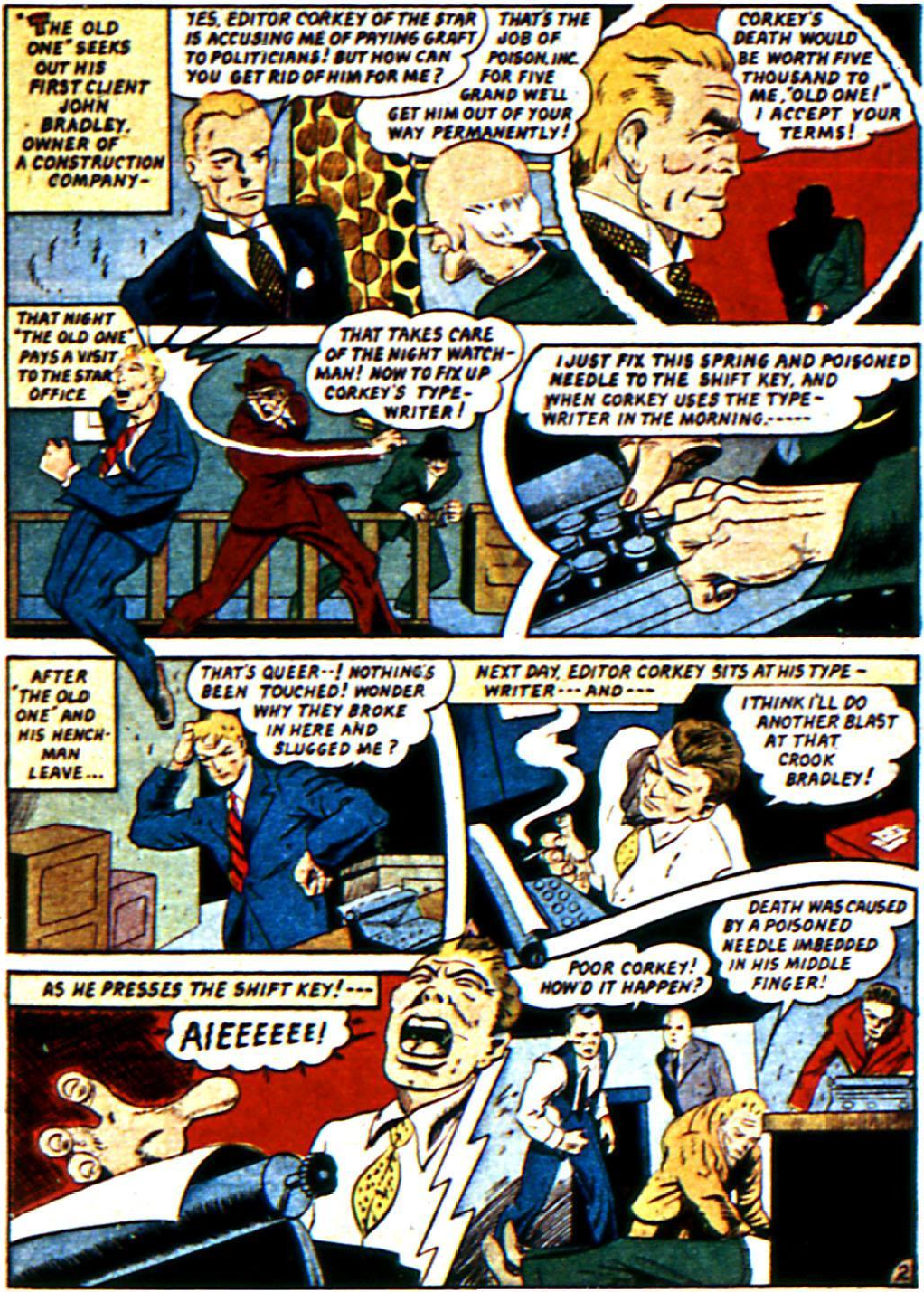

THE WITNESS REVIVES TOMMY ATKINS AND..
YOU HAD A NARROW ESCAPE! TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!
DUVAL RUNS A GAMBLING SHIP OUT TO SEA.... I LOST HEAVILY AND ACCUSED HIM OF BEING CROOKED... HE TRIED TO KILL ME!
A WATER TAXI IS COMING IN FROM THE SHIP! YOU'D BETTER GO HOME AND REST! I HAVE WORK TO DO!
IF YOU'RE GOING ON THE SHIP, BE CAREFUL! DUVAL'S A KILLER!
YOU'RE TAKING ME BACK TO THE GAMBLING SHIP WITH YOU, MY FRIEND!
G'WAN! YA GOTTA BE DRESSED LIKE A GENTLEMAN TO GET ABOARD! YA MIGHT BE A COPPER!
IN THAT CASE, I SHALL GO ALONE!
YOWWW!
HEY! COME BACK HERE, YOU!
SORRY, BUT I HAVE A RENDEZVOUS WITH A CRIMINAL WHO MUST BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE!
THE WITNESS FINALLY ARRIVES AT THE GAMBLING SHIP
HEY, MIKE! BRING THE BOAT OVER THIS WAY!
THEY THINK I'M THEIR DRIVER! I'LL GO TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE SHIP AND SNEAK ABOARD!
SPEEDING TO THE OTHER SIDE, THE WITNESS FINDS A ROPE AND...
I DON'T LIKE DA LOOKS OF IT! SOMETHIN' PHONEY IS GOIN' ON!
DAT'S QUEER! MIKE DRIVES OVER TA DIS SIDE, AN' DEN HE DISAPPEARS!

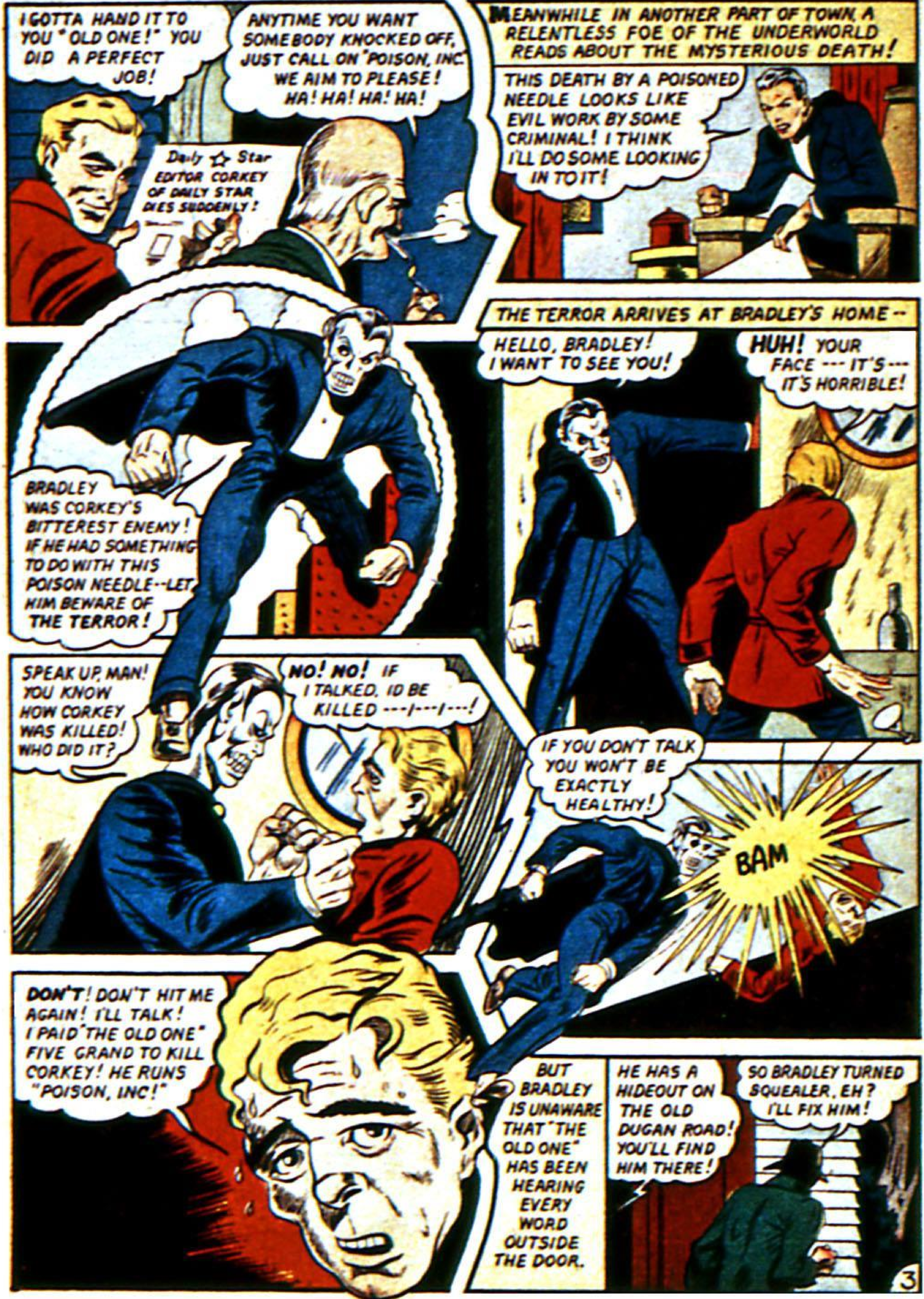

T THAT MOMENT, IN THE GAMBLING SALON
THAT CLEANS ME OUT, DUVAL! GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MAKE OUT A CHECK!
COME INTO MY PRIVATE OFFICE, JUDGE JEFFRYS! IT'S QUIETER THERE!
LET ME SEE... I OWE YOU FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS!
BETTER MAKE THE CHECK OUT FOR TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND, JUDGE!
IF YA DON'T, I'LL LET YOUR CONSTITUENTS KNOW YOU'VE BEEN LOSING HEAVILY! I DON'T THINK THEY'D LIKE A JUDGE WHO GAMBLES! HA! HA!
THIS IS BLACKMAIL!
HE WITNESS MAKES A SUDDEN APPEARANCE!
SIGN NOTHING, JUDGE!
WHAT THE..? HOW'D YOU GET ABOARD?
NO PLACE CAN KEEP ME OUT WHERE EVIL IS BEING PERPETRATED!
UVAL'S HIRELINGS RUSH IN.....
GET 'IM, BOYS!
LEAVE IT TO US, BOSS!
HIRELINGS OF A CRIMINAL MUST RECEIVE THE SAME TREATMENT!
OWWW!

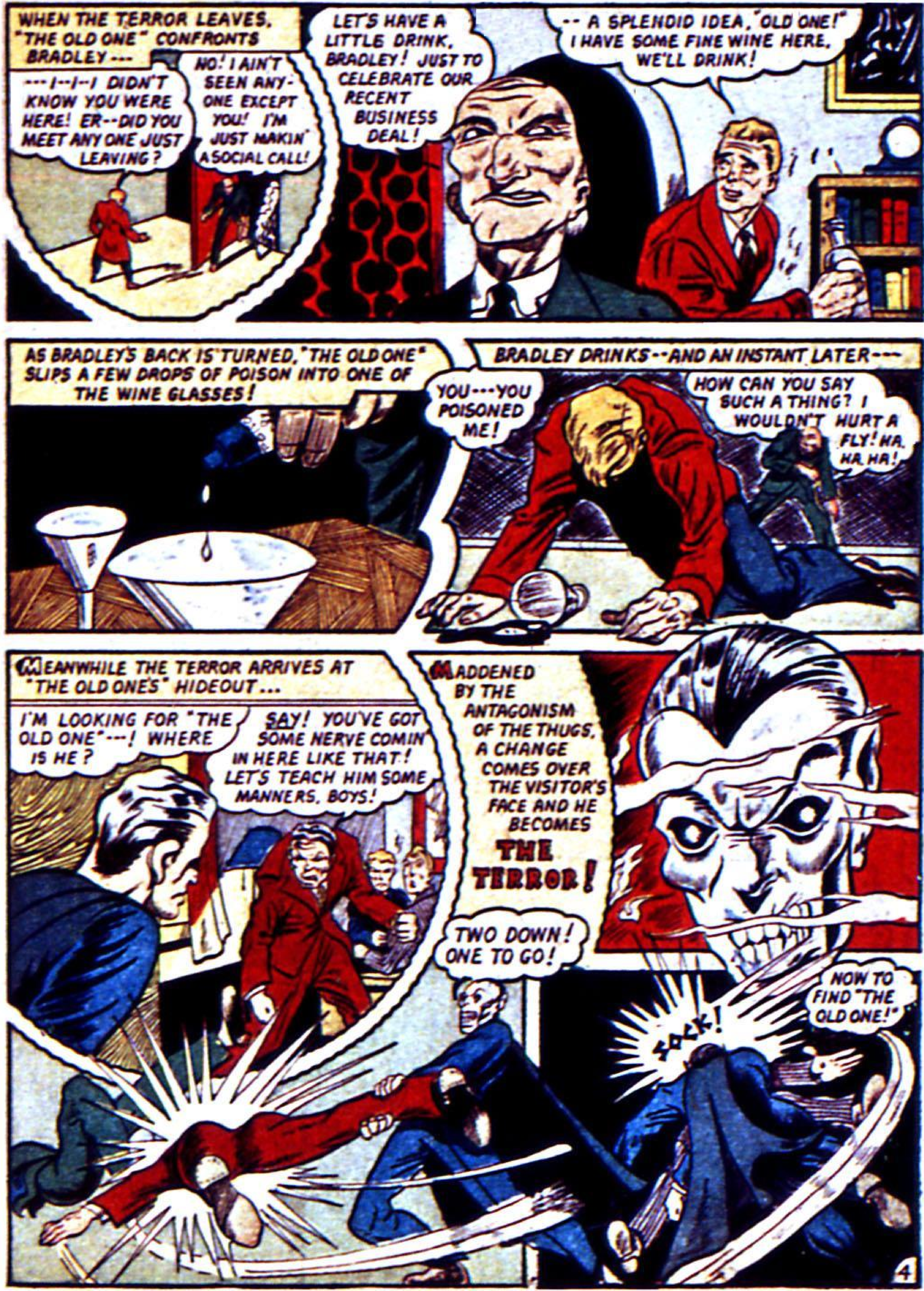

DUVAL SNEAKS UP BEHIND THE WITNESS AND....
THIS'LL STOP HIM!
HERE'S YOUR CHECK FOR TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND! NOW I'M GOING INTO THE SALON AND WIN IT BACK!
SURE! GO AHEAD, JUDGE! MAYBE YOU WILL WIN... HA, HA!
A FEW SLUGS IN HIS BRAIN WILL PUT HIM TO SLEEP!
POIMANENTLY, EH, BOSS! HA, HA!
BUT THE WITNESS RECOVERS AND....
BANG!
I MUST TEACH YOU THAT EVIL CAN NEVER BE THE VICTOR!
AND THIS IS YOUR LAST LESSON!
UGH
NOW I CAN SHOW THE FOOLS IN THE GAMBLING ROOM HOW THEY HAVE BEEN CHEATED!
I'M RUINED.... RUINED!
DUVAL HAS GREATLY SINNED BY TRICKING THESE PEOPLE! I WILL REVEAL THE TRUTH TO THEM!
I CAN'T SEEM TO WIN TONIGHT!

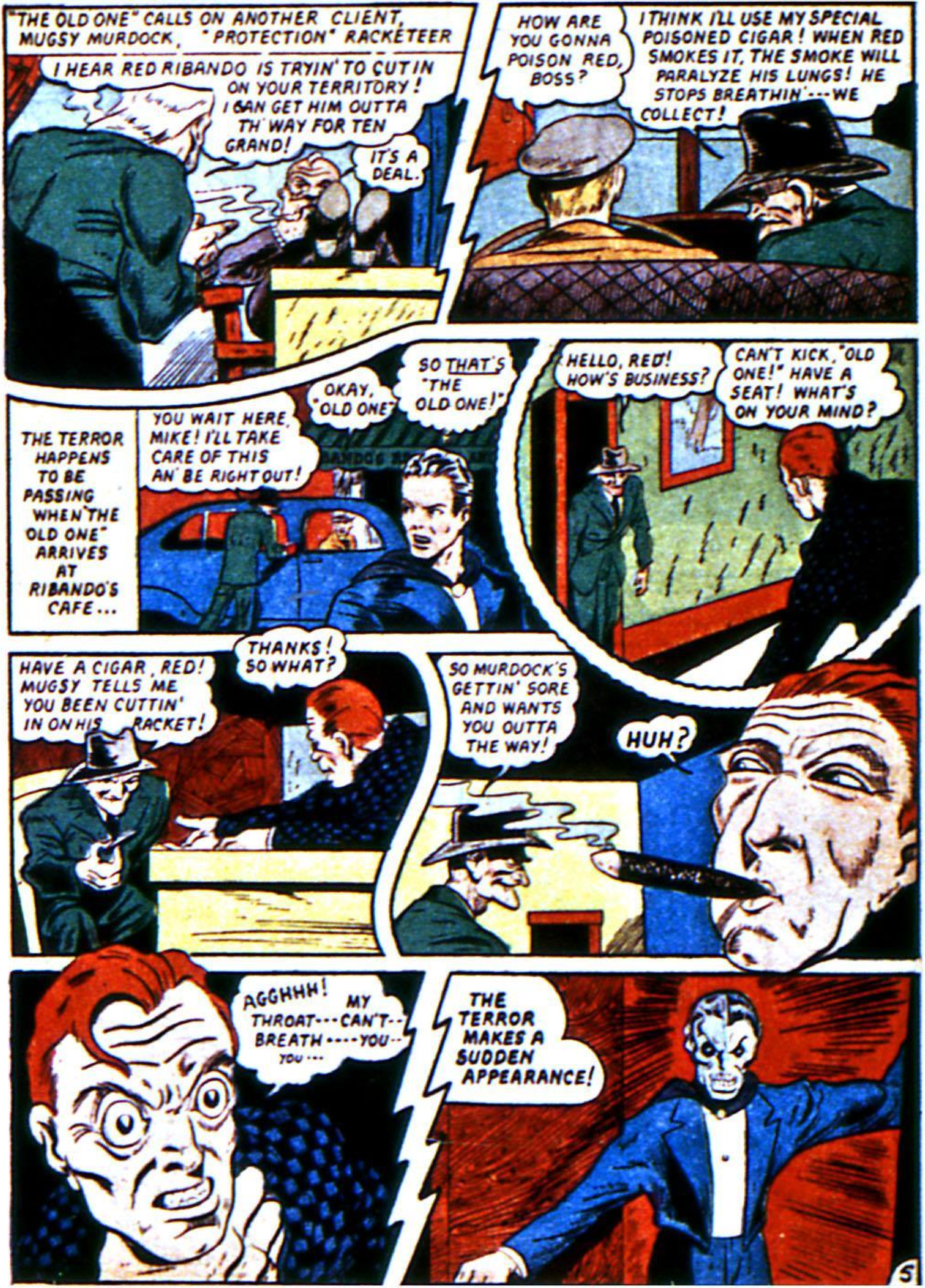

HEY, YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
LOOK, FOOLS, AND SEE WHY YOU HAVE LOST YOUR MONEY!
THE VICTIMS GET WISE TO THE CROOKED GAMBLING TABLES!
HIDDEN WIRES AND MECHANISMS! WE'VE BEEN CHEATED!
DUVAL ROBBED US!
THE ENRAGED MEN AND WOMEN TURN ON DUVAL'S THUGS...
BEAT THEM UP, THE CROOKS!
IT SEEMS I AM NOT NEEDED HERE ANYMORE!
HELP! OWWW!
THE WITNESS MAKES HIS WAY TO THE PILOT ROOM AND....
I DEMAND THAT YOU TURN THE SHIP TOWARD SHORE!
HUH! AN'GET PICKED UP BY THE HARBOR POLICE! NOTHIN' DOIN'!
THEN I SHALL HAVE TO DO IT MYSELF!
THE WITNESS DIRECTS THE GAMBLING SHIP INTO THE HARBOR WHERE THE POLICE ARE WAITING....
WE'VE BEEN WAITING A LONG TIME TO NAB DUVAL AND HIS GAMBLING SHIP! BUT HE ALWAYS STAYED WAY OUT TO SEA!
NOW THAT HE IS ASHORE YOU HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO IMPRISON HIM... ON CHARGES OF RUNNING A GAMBLING SHIP, FOR BLACKMAIL, AND FOR ATTEMPTED MURDER!
ANOTHER CRIMINAL HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO JUSTICE! I MUST SEEK OUT MORE EVIL TO FIGHT!
SO, AS MYSTERIOUSLY AS HE HAD APPEARED, THE WITNESS VANISHES INTO THE SHADOWS OF THE NIGHT!!
FOLLOW THE AMAZING CAREER OF THE WITNESS IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MYSTIC COMICS

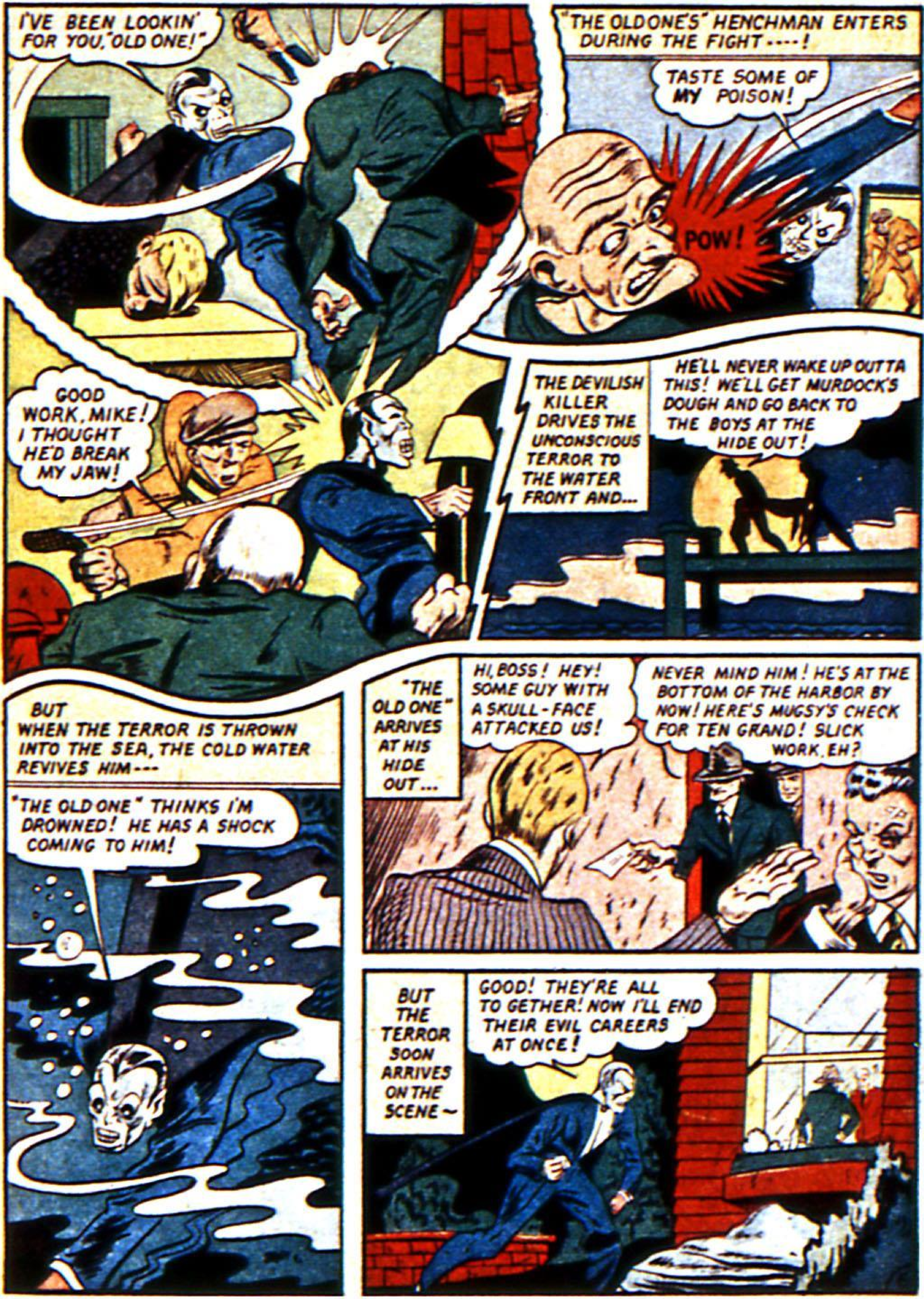

The TERROR
DRAWN BY DON RICO
POISON
PANIC LOOMS AS A DIABOLICAL ORGANIZATION FORMED BY A KILLER THREATENS THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS INNOCENT VICTIMS, UNTIL THE TERROR STEPS IN TO COMBAT THE SINISTER INFLUENCE OF POISON, INCORPORATED!
OUR STORY OPENS IN THE HIDE-OUT OF "THE OLD ONE" CRIME PLOTTER PAR EXCELLENCE!
I SENT FOR YOU GUYS TO TELL YOU WERE GOIN' INTO BUSINESS!
HUH? WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS, BOSS?
I'M CALLIN' IT POISON INC! FOR A SUITABLE FEE, WE BUMP OFF ANYBODY'S ENEMY FOR HIM! NO GUNS --- NO KNIVES --- WE USE POISON!
I FIGURED OUT LOTSA WAYS TO GIVE A GUY POISON WITHOUT HIM KNOWIN' IT!

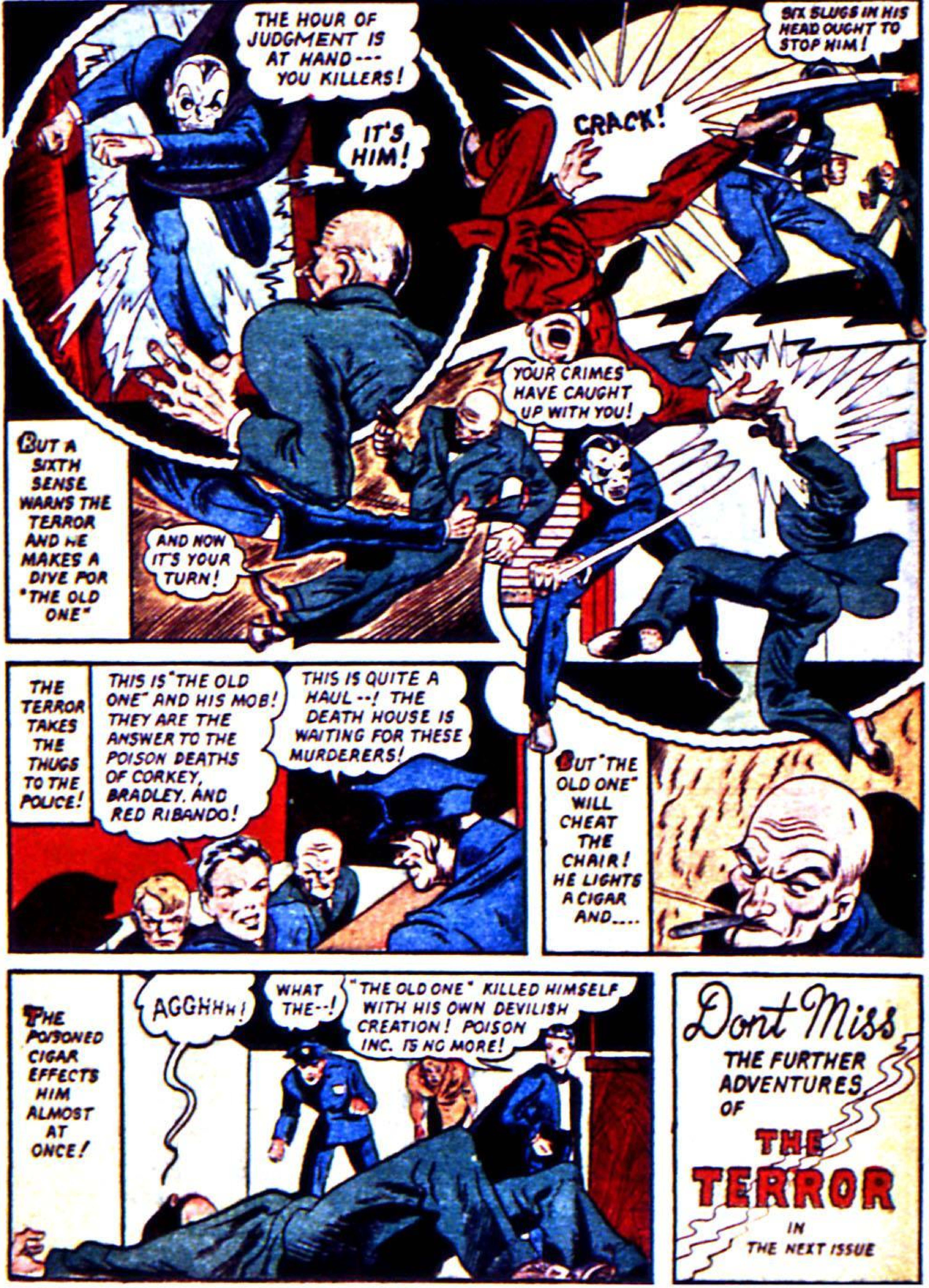

"THE OLD ONE" SEEKS OUT HIS FIRST CLIENT JOHN BRADLEY, OWNER OF A CONSTRUCTION COMPANY-
YES, EDITOR CORKEY OF THE STAR IS ACCUSING ME OF PAYING GRAFT TO POLITICIANS! BUT HOW CAN YOU GET RID OF HIM FOR ME?
THAT'S THE JOB OF POISON, INC. FOR FIVE GRAND WE'LL GET HIM OUT OF YOUR WAY PERMANENTLY!
CORKEY'S DEATH WOULD BE WORTH FIVE THOUSAND TO ME, "OLD ONE!" I ACCEPT YOUR TERMS!
THAT NIGHT "THE OLD ONE" PAYS A VISIT TO THE STAR OFFICE
THAT TAKES CARE OF THE NIGHT WATCH-MAN! NOW TO FIX UP CORKEY'S TYPE-WRITER!
I JUST FIX THIS SPRING AND POISONED NEEDLE TO THE SHIFT KEY, AND WHEN CORKEY USES THE TYPE-WRITER IN THE MORNING.-----
AFTER "THE OLD ONE" AND HIS HENCH-MAN LEAVE...
THAT'S QUEER--! NOTHING'S BEEN TOUCHED! WONDER WHY THEY BROKE IN HERE AND SLUGGED ME?
NEXT DAY, EDITOR CORKEY SITS AT HIS TYPE-WRITER--- AND---
I THINK I'LL DO ANOTHER BLAST AT THAT CROOK BRADLEY!
AS HE PRESSES THE SHIFT KEY!---
AIEEEEEE!
POOR CORKEY! HOW'D IT HAPPEN?
DEATH WAS CAUSED BY A POISONED NEEDLE IMBEDDED IN HIS MIDDLE FINGER!


I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU "OLD ONE!" YOU DID A PERFECT JOB!
Daily ☆ Star EDITOR CORKEY OF DAILY STAR DIES SUDDENLY!
ANYTIME YOU WANT SOMEBODY KNOCKED OFF, JUST CALL ON "POISON, INC." WE AIM TO PLEASE! HA! HA! HA! HA!
MEANWHILE IN ANOTHER PART OF TOWN, A RELENTLESS FOE OF THE UNDERWORLD READS ABOUT THE MYSTERIOUS DEATH!
THIS DEATH BY A POISONED NEEDLE LOOKS LIKE EVIL WORK BY SOME CRIMINAL! I THINK I'LL DO SOME LOOKING INTO IT!
BRADLEY WAS CORKEY'S BITTEREST ENEMY! IF HE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS POISON NEEDLE--LET HIM BEWARE OF THE TERROR!
THE TERROR ARRIVES AT BRADLEY'S HOME--
HELLO, BRADLEY! I WANT TO SEE YOU!
HUH! YOUR FACE --- IT'S --- IT'S HORRIBLE!
SPEAK UP, MAN! YOU KNOW HOW CORKEY WAS KILLED! WHO DID IT?
NO! NO! IF I TALKED, ID BE KILLED ---!---!---!
IF YOU DON'T TALK YOU WON'T BE EXACTLY HEALTHY!
BAM
DON'T! DON'T HIT ME AGAIN! I'LL TALK! I PAID "THE OLD ONE" FIVE GRAND TO KILL CORKEY! HE RUNS "POISON, INC!"
BUT BRADLEY IS UNAWARE THAT "THE OLD ONE" HAS BEEN HEARING EVERY WORD OUTSIDE THE DOOR.
HE HAS A HIDEOUT ON THE OLD DUGAN ROAD! YOU'LL FIND HIM THERE!
SO BRADLEY TURNED SQUEALER, EH? I'LL FIX HIM!

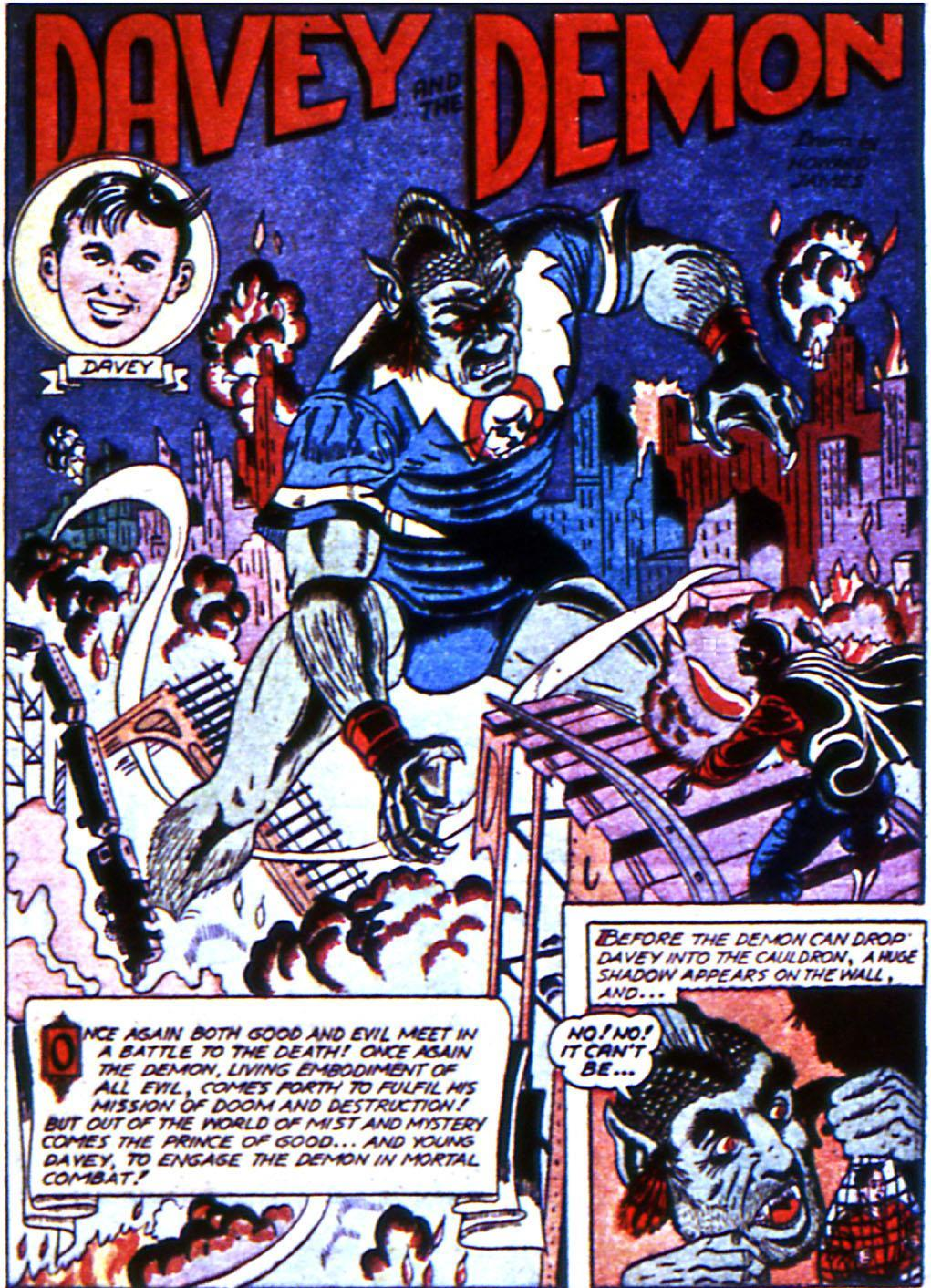

WHEN THE TERROR LEAVES, "THE OLD ONE" CONFRONTS BRADLEY---
---I--I--I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE HERE! ER--DID YOU MEET ANY ONE JUST LEAVING?
NO! I AIN'T SEEN ANY-ONE EXCEPT YOU! I'M JUST MAKIN' A SOCIAL CALL!
LET'S HAVE A LITTLE DRINK, BRADLEY! JUST TO CELEBRATE OUR RECENT BUSINESS DEAL!
-- A SPLENDID IDEA, "OLD ONE!" I HAVE SOME FINE WINE HERE. WE'LL DRINK!
AS BRADLEY'S BACK IS TURNED, "THE OLD ONE" SLIPS A FEW DROPS OF POISON INTO ONE OF THE WINE GLASSES!
BRADLEY DRINKS--AND AN INSTANT LATER---
YOU---YOU POISONED ME!
HOW CAN YOU SAY SUCH A THING? I WOULDN'T HURT A FLY! HA, HA, HA!
MEANWHILE THE TERROR ARRIVES AT "THE OLD ONE'S" HIDEOUT...
I'M LOOKING FOR "THE OLD ONE"---! WHERE IS HE?
SAY! YOU'VE GOT SOME NERVE COMIN' IN HERE LIKE THAT! LET'S TEACH HIM SOME MANNERS, BOYS!
MADDENED BY THE ANTAGONISM OF THE THUGS, A CHANGE COMES OVER THE VISITOR'S FACE AND HE BECOMES THE TERROR!
TWO DOWN! ONE TO GO!
SOCK!
NOW TO FIND "THE OLD ONE!"

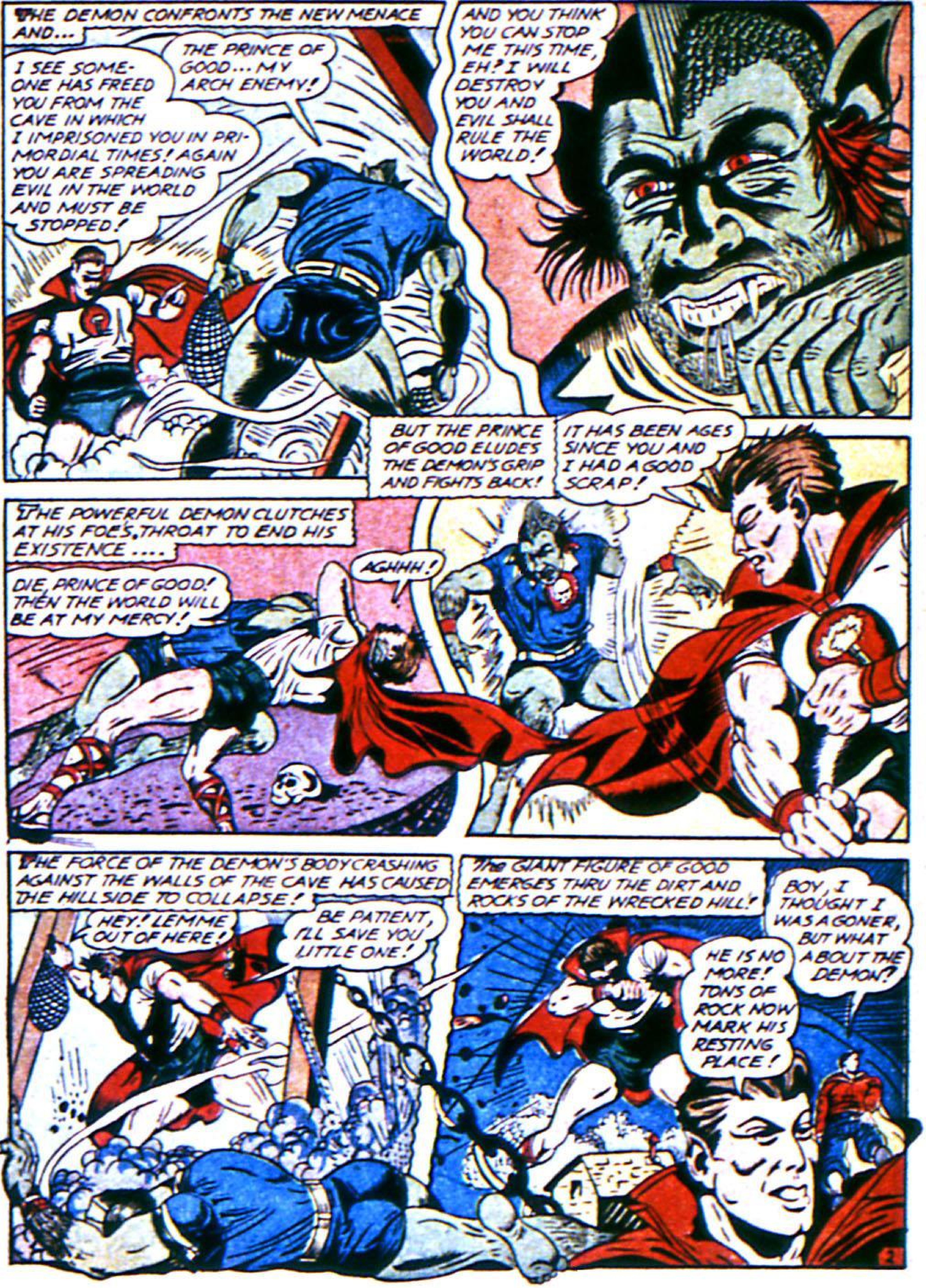

"THE OLD ONE" CALLS ON ANOTHER CLIENT, MUGSY MURDOCK, "PROTECTION" RACKETEER
I HEAR RED RIBANDO IS TRYIN' TO CUT IN ON YOUR TERRITORY! I CAN GET HIM OUTTA TH' WAY FOR TEN GRAND!
IT'S A DEAL.
HOW ARE YOU GONNA POISON RED, BOSS?
I THINK I'LL USE MY SPECIAL POISONED CIGAR! WHEN RED SMOKES IT, THE SMOKE WILL PARALYZE HIS LUNGS! HE STOPS BREATHIN'---WE COLLECT!
THE TERROR HAPPENS TO BE PASSING WHEN "THE OLD ONE" ARRIVES AT RIBANDO'S CAFE...
YOU WAIT HERE, MIKE! I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS AN' BE RIGHT OUT!
OKAY, "OLD ONE"
SO THAT'S "THE OLD ONE!"
HELLO, RED! HOW'S BUSINESS?
CAN'T KICK, "OLD ONE!" HAVE A SEAT! WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
HAVE A CIGAR, RED! MUGSY TELLS ME YOU BEEN CUTTIN' IN ON HIS RACKET!
THANKS! SO WHAT?
SO MURDOCK'S GETTIN' SORE AND WANTS YOU OUTTA THE WAY!
HUH?
AGGHHH! MY THROAT---CAN'T--BREATH----YOU--YOU---
THE TERROR MAKES A SUDDEN APPEARANCE!

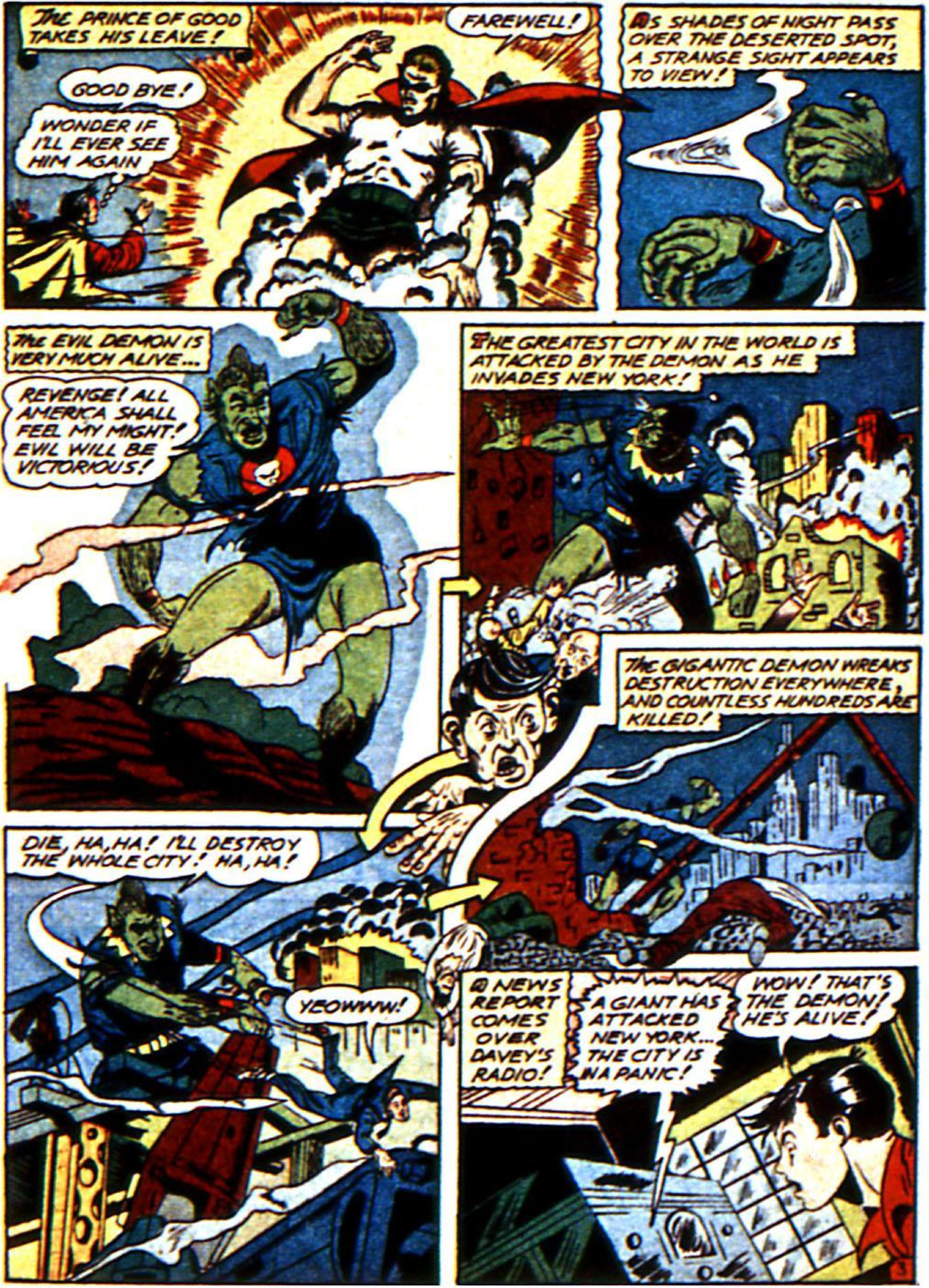

I'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR YOU, "OLD ONE!"
"THE OLD ONE'S" HENCHMAN ENTERS DURING THE FIGHT----!
TASTE SOME OF **MY** POISON!
POW!
GOOD WORK, MIKE! I THOUGHT HE'D BREAK MY JAW!
THE DEVILISH KILLER DRIVES THE UNCONSCIOUS TERROR TO THE WATER FRONT AND...
HE'LL NEVER WAKE UP OUTTA THIS! WE'LL GET MURDOCK'S DOUGH AND GO BACK TO THE BOYS AT THE HIDE OUT!
BUT WHEN THE TERROR IS THROWN INTO THE SEA, THE COLD WATER REVIVES HIM---
"THE OLD ONE" THINKS I'M DROWNED! HE HAS A SHOCK COMING TO HIM!
"THE OLD ONE" ARRIVES AT HIS HIDE OUT...
HI, BOSS! HEY! SOME GUY WITH A SKULL-FACE ATTACKED US!
NEVER MIND HIM! HE'S AT THE BOTTOM OF THE HARBOR BY NOW! HERE'S MUGSY'S CHECK FOR TEN GRAND! SLICK WORK, EH?
BUT THE TERROR SOON ARRIVES ON THE SCENE~
GOOD! THEY'RE ALL TO GETHER! NOW I'LL END THEIR EVIL CAREERS AT ONCE!

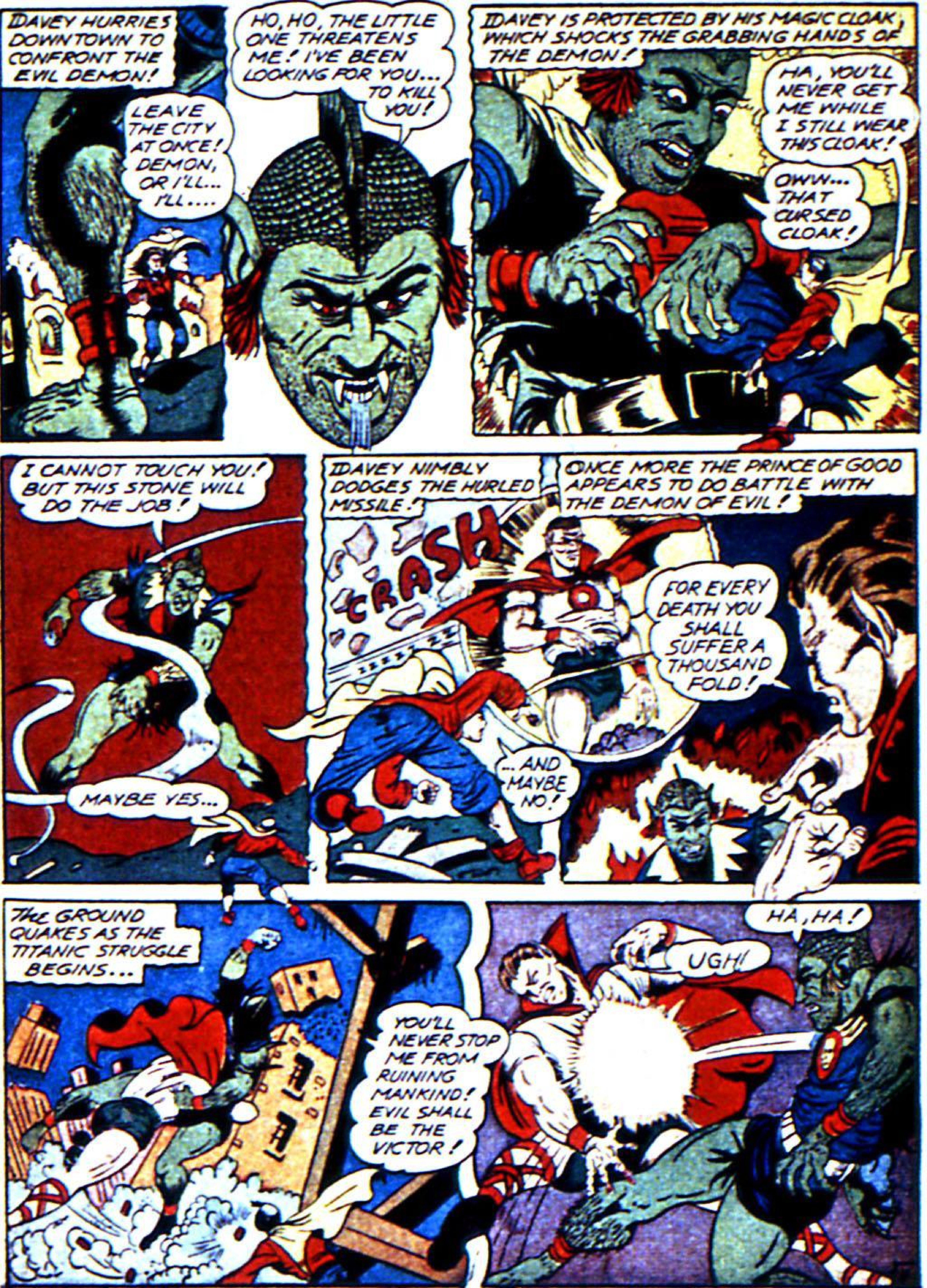

THE HOUR OF JUDGMENT IS AT HAND--- YOU KILLERS!
IT'S HIM!
SIX SLUGS IN HIS HEAD OUGHT TO STOP HIM!
CRACK!
BUT A SIXTH SENSE WARNS THE TERROR AND HE MAKES A DIVE FOR "THE OLD ONE"
YOUR CRIMES HAVE CAUGHT UP WITH YOU!
AND NOW IT'S YOUR TURN!
THE TERROR TAKES THE THUGS TO THE POLICE!
THIS IS "THE OLD ONE" AND HIS MOB! THEY ARE THE ANSWER TO THE POISON DEATHS OF CORKEY, BRADLEY, AND RED RIBANDO!
THIS IS QUITE A HAUL--! THE DEATH HOUSE IS WAITING FOR THESE MURDERERS!
BUT "THE OLD ONE" WILL CHEAT THE CHAIR! HE LIGHTS A CIGAR AND....
THE POISONED CIGAR EFFECTS HIM ALMOST AT ONCE!
AGGHHH!
WHAT THE--!
"THE OLD ONE" KILLED HIMSELF WITH HIS OWN DEVILISH CREATION! POISON INC. IS NO MORE!
Dont Miss
THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF
THE TERROR
IN THE NEXT ISSUE

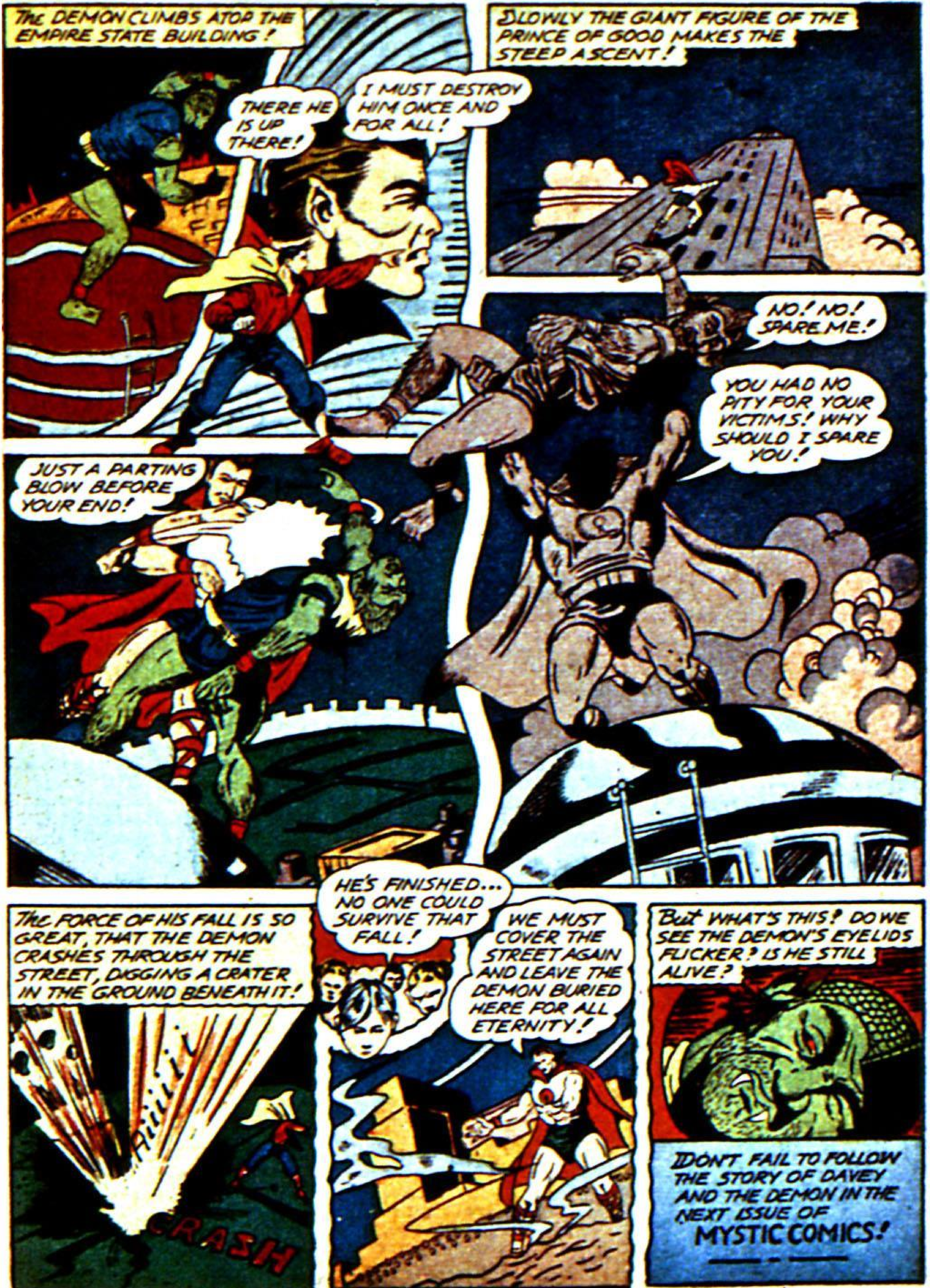
DAVEY AND THE DEMON


Drawn by Howard James
DAVEY
ONCE AGAIN BOTH GOOD AND EVIL MEET IN A BATTLE TO THE DEATH! ONCE AGAIN THE DEMON, LIVING EMBODIMENT OF ALL EVIL, COMES FORTH TO FULFIL HIS MISSION OF DOOM AND DESTRUCTION! BUT OUT OF THE WORLD OF MIST AND MYSTERY COMES THE PRINCE OF GOOD... AND YOUNG DAVEY, TO ENGAGE THE DEMON IN MORTAL COMBAT!
BEFORE THE DEMON CAN DROP DAVEY INTO THE CAULDRON, A HUGE SHADOW APPEARS ON THE WALL, AND...
NO! NO! IT CAN'T BE...


THE DEMON CONFRONTS THE NEW MENACE AND...
I SEE SOMEONE HAS FREED YOU FROM THE CAVE IN WHICH I IMPRISONED YOU IN PRIMORDIAL TIMES! AGAIN YOU ARE SPREADING EVIL IN THE WORLD AND MUST BE STOPPED!
THE PRINCE OF GOOD... MY ARCH ENEMY!
AND YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME THIS TIME, EH? I WILL DESTROY YOU AND EVIL SHALL RULE THE WORLD!
THE POWERFUL DEMON CLUTCHES AT HIS FOE'S THROAT TO END HIS EXISTENCE....
DIE, PRINCE OF GOOD! THEN THE WORLD WILL BE AT MY MERCY!
AGHHH!
BUT THE PRINCE OF GOOD ELUDES THE DEMON'S GRIP AND FIGHTS BACK!
IT HAS BEEN AGES SINCE YOU AND I HAD A GOOD SCRAP!
THE FORCE OF THE DEMON'S BODY CRASHING AGAINST THE WALLS OF THE CAVE HAS CAUSED THE HILLSIDE TO COLLAPSE!
HEY! LEMME OUT OF HERE!
BE PATIENT, I'LL SAVE YOU LITTLE ONE!
THE GIANT FIGURE OF GOOD EMERGES THRU THE DIRT AND ROCKS OF THE WRECKED HILL!
BOY, I THOUGHT I WAS A GONER, BUT WHAT ABOUT THE DEMON?
HE IS NO MORE! TONS OF ROCK NOW MARK HIS RESTING PLACE!


THE PRINCE OF GOOD TAKES HIS LEAVE!
FAREWELL!
GOOD BYE!
WONDER IF I'LL EVER SEE HIM AGAIN
AS SHADES OF NIGHT PASS OVER THE DESERTED SPOT, A STRANGE SIGHT APPEARS TO VIEW!
THE EVIL DEMON IS VERY MUCH ALIVE...
REVENGE! ALL AMERICA SHALL FEEL MY MIGHT! EVIL WILL BE VICTORIOUS!
THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD IS ATTACKED BY THE DEMON AS HE INVADES NEW YORK!
THE GIGANTIC DEMON WREAKS DESTRUCTION EVERYWHERE, AND COUNTLESS HUNDREDS ARE KILLED!
DIE, HA, HA! I'LL DESTROY THE WHOLE CITY! HA, HA!
YEOWWW!
A NEWS REPORT COMES OVER DAVEY'S RADIO!
A GIANT HAS ATTACKED NEW YORK... THE CITY IS IN A PANIC!
WOW! THAT'S THE DEMON! HE'S ALIVE!


DAVEY HURRIES DOWNTOWN TO CONFRONT THE EVIL DEMON!
LEAVE THE CITY AT ONCE! DEMON, OR I'LL... I'LL....
HO, HO, THE LITTLE ONE THREATENS ME! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU... TO KILL YOU!
DAVEY IS PROTECTED BY HIS MAGIC CLOAK, WHICH SHOCKS THE GRABBING HANDS OF THE DEMON!
HA, YOU'LL NEVER GET ME WHILE I STILL WEAR THIS CLOAK!
OWW... THAT CURSED CLOAK!
I CANNOT TOUCH YOU! BUT THIS STONE WILL DO THE JOB!
MAYBE YES...
DAVEY NIMBLY DODGES THE HURLED MISSILE!
CRASH
...AND MAYBE NO!
ONCE MORE THE PRINCE OF GOOD APPEARS TO DO BATTLE WITH THE DEMON OF EVIL!
FOR EVERY DEATH YOU SHALL SUFFER A THOUSAND FOLD!
The GROUND QUAKES AS THE TITANIC STRUGGLE BEGINS...
YOU'LL NEVER STOP ME FROM RUINING MANKIND! EVIL SHALL BE THE VICTOR!
HA, HA!
UGH!


THE DEMON CLIMBS ATOP THE EMPIRE STATE BUILDING!
THERE HE IS UP THERE!
I MUST DESTROY HIM ONCE AND FOR ALL!
SLOWLY THE GIANT FIGURE OF THE PRINCE OF GOOD MAKES THE STEEP ASCENT!
JUST A PARTING BLOW BEFORE YOUR END!
NO! NO! SPARE ME!
YOU HAD NO PITY FOR YOUR VICTIMS! WHY SHOULD I SPARE YOU!
THE FORCE OF HIS FALL IS SO GREAT, THAT THE DEMON CRASHES THROUGH THE STREET, DIGGING A CRATER IN THE GROUND BENEATH IT!
CRASH
HE'S FINISHED... NO ONE COULD SURVIVE THAT FALL!
WE MUST COVER THE STREET AGAIN AND LEAVE THE DEMON BURIED HERE FOR ALL ETERNITY!
BUT WHAT'S THIS! DO WE SEE THE DEMON'S EYELIDS FLICKER? IS HE STILL ALIVE?
DON'T FAIL TO FOLLOW THE STORY OF DAVEY AND THE DEMON IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MYSTIC COMICS!

MANHUNT!

PAUL KEMP was one of those guys who suffered from a wild wanderlust. He just couldn't stay put in one place for very long; when he heard the whooo of a train whistle in the far distance, or saw a plane pass overhead, Paul felt this longing in his soul to be on his way into the great unknown, seeking new scenes, new paths, new adventures!

It was a wanderlust that had to be obeyed, or else the youth suffered sleepless nights. So it was that Paul lay on his small cot in the attic room where he slept during the weeks he worked for Farmer Tinker, pitching hay, picking the ripe fruit in the orchard, and doing other chores around the farm. Paul had come into the old farmhouse a short while ago and asked for work. Old man Tinker liked the boy and put him on.

But, here was Paul on his cot, his eyes wide open, as his head rested back on his upturned palms on the pillow. Paul couldn't sleep. He could hear a train whisle whooooing in the distance, calling to him to be on his way. Well, he thought, I've cleaned up my work around here anyway, so there's no reason way I shouldn't move on.

Paul wrote a brief note to Farmer Tinker, and left the house silently. It was a dark night, and a heavy mist covered the farm. Paul could not see more than ten feet ahead of him, as he made his way carefully down the dirt road which led to the main highway. Not a very pleasant night to start his wandering again. Maybe he should have waited until morning. But then it would have been harder to break away from the old man who had been so kind to him. Wish I could have done something really worthwhile for the old man, Paul thought. Something that would repay him for the good meals, the clean bed, and the extra money in my pocket!

The mist was so heavy now that Paul had to stop, uncertain which way to walk to get to the highway. He sat down on a boulder alongside the dirt road to get his bearings. Suddenly, Paul lifted his head in a gesture of intent listening. ome sound had reached his ears, a sound which was unfamiliar. It made chills run up and down his back. Something was in the wind, and no mistake!

Paul could hear the sound coming closer to him. And it was not much longer that he suddenly realized what it was. Not a wolf howling in the wilderness, but . . . bloodhounds! There was no mistaking that baying which wafted over the mists on this dark night. There was terror in the air; and Paul felt as though he was directly involved in the mystery. How right he was!

What could a couple of bloodhounds be doing here in the middle of the night, a misty one at that? Searching for something . . . or someone? That was it! These baying hounds were on the track of some person! But who?

Then it came to young Kemp in a flash! Only a few miles from the Tinker farm, there was a state prison. This horrible calling in the misty night could mean only one thing: a prisoner had escaped from the State Prison, and already the guards were on his trail with the bloodhounds. But the sounds from those croaking throats were coming nearer and nearer! The escaped convict must be very near!

Paul was undecided what to do. He couldn't make his way to the highway, because the mists were rolling so thick all about him, that he was sure he'd lose his way in the maze before him. At least he wasn't too far from the farm house which he had just left, so he retraced his steps. He turned off the dirt road, and made his way slowly toward the house. He could still hear the hounds baying in the night, and they seemed to be even closer than before.

Paul reached the house. He entered the back door, and was just about to climb the stairs to his attic room, when he heard voices in the main part of the house downstairs. He wondered if farmer Tinker had been awakened by the constant baying of the bloodhounds, and was getting ready to investigate. But, who was he talking to? A guard from the prison? Maybe I can help, Paul thought.

He opened the door to the big front room noiselessly. Suddenly, he froze in his tracks. The words which reached his ears revealed the whole drama which was taking place in that other room.

"Hurry up!" A gruff voice commanded. "Gimme some old clothes so I can get rid of these duds! Those guards'll be on my tail in a few minutes!"

Old man Tinker's guest was none other than the escaped convict, the man who had caused these howling hounds to pierce the misty night with their horrible cries!

Farmer Tinker knew better than to argue with a desperate killer who had just escaped from a life term in the State prison! He rummaged through an old chest in the hallway, and drew forth an old suit of clothes. The convict grabbed them and proceeded to don them, throwing his prison garb around the room. Paul was taking this all in from the partially opened door.

Paul waited for his chance. When the convict turned his back for a brief moment, Paul thrust open the door and leaped in. He pounced on the killer, and a battle followed which called for every ounce of strength the youth could muster! The killer lashed out and landed a terrific smash to Paul's jaw. Kemp flew back and landed on an armchair, which toppled over backwards. Mr. Tinker tried to enter the fray, but the convict disposed of him easily by smashing a lamp over the head of the old and weak man. He collapsed with a gasp.

Paul had regained his feet, but now the escaped killer was ready for him. He swung out, but Paul ducked just in time. As the killer came whirling around, Paul pounded his fist into his foe's brutal face. He fell back, but kept his feet. The convict lunged this time, and caught Paul in the knees. He fell with a thud. The brute delivered a single dynamic blow which rendered Paul out of his senses. The enraged prisoner was about to smash a heavy bookend over Paul's head, when the baying of the bloodhounds were heard, very close to the house now. Yes, they were up to the back door already, sniffing the tracks of their quarry to this spot.

Without a second's hesitation, the killer left the scene by the front door, and a few seconds more was swallowed up by the maw of the misty night. Paul and the old farmer regained their senses at this moment, as they heard pounding on the back door. As they got to their feet, a number of prison guards entered, with the bloodhounds on a leash.

One guard glanced quickly about the room before he said anything. Then:

"Looks like our man's been here! There's his prison outfit. But I guess he's scooted out again!"

Mr. Tinker tried to explain. But the guards were under the impression that old man Tinker and Paul had purposely aided the convict in his escape by giving him another suit of clothes to wear.

"He musta come right here as prearranged, and you helped him get rid of his tell-tale prison's outfit! Looks like a conspiracy to me!" The guards could not be convinced otherwise.

Paul stood there wondering what to do. Mr. Tinker had been so kind to him. He couldn't see him get in this mess and be under suspicion of helping that convict to escape. And of course he was in this pretty deep too!

Before the guards knew what was happening, Paul streaked across the room and crashed out thru the window. Wild shots followed him, but he quickly got up from the soft dirt outside the window and sped away into the night. The same mist which had swallowed up the fleeing figure of the escaped convict, now furnished Paul with a blanket of protection as he sped away. But he *wasn't* running away to put miles between himself and the Law. He was out to get that escaped prisoner, and so clear himself and old man Tinker from the serious charges of aiding the convict.

Once again he found himself on the dirt road leading to the main highway. The night was still misty, altho it was not as dense as it had been an hour earlier. Somewhere in that mist, a man was trying to escape the retribution of Justice for some crime he had committed. And somewhere in that same mist was another man who sought him, to bring him back to Justice so that the innocen might not suffer!

Again those bloodhounds took up the cry as they left the farmhouse, one guard having remained behind to watch old man Tinker. Paul's blood ran cold as he realized that these hounds were not seeking the convict alone, but were on his trail too! It was a race against time. If those hounds tracked him down before he could find the killer, it would be all up with him! But how was he going to nab a killer in this mist?

Then a sudden inspiration came to him. Paul knew that if anyone wanted to put bloodhounds off his trail, all he had to do was to walk across a stream of water or even walk up the stream to a great distance from the scene of the hunt. And that was probably exactly what the killer was doing now! Paul remembered the brook which crossed the farm. He made his way to that swiftly, and at last reached the bubbling stream. He walked along its banks until he found what he was seeking . . . footprints! The killer had been there a moment before!

Paul continued to walk along the brook, listening for signs of a human body fording the stream. Suddenly he stopped. Yes, he heard it now. Someone was walking downstream in the middle of the brook. Paul's eyes pierced the mists and at last spotted his quarry. With a bound, he leaped into the water and reached the side of the startled convict. It was not easy to fight in a stream with the water lapping around his legs and threatening to knock him off his feet.

But the killer had no intention of giving up that easily. He ripped into Paul, and brought him to his knees. With overpowering strength, the killer forced Paul's head beneath the water, and held it there. Paul could feel the pressure in his head. He was half gone already! But, with a last desperate clutching of his arms, he grabbed the killer's legs, and toppled him over. As Paul's head shot up above the surface of the brook, he inhaled drafts of fresh air, recovering his senses. Without waiting for the killer to regain the advantage, Paul walloped him with all his might, rights and lefts!

One final blow and the killer sank into oblivion! Paul dragged his unconscious form to the bank and hauled him onto dry land. Paul was too exhausted to move any further. But he didn't have to seek out the prison guards, for they were already approaching him, with the hounds doing their work well, as they strained on their leashes and came right up to the two forms huddled together near the brook.

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The guard looked down at Paul. The latter managed to utter a few words to the astonished guard.

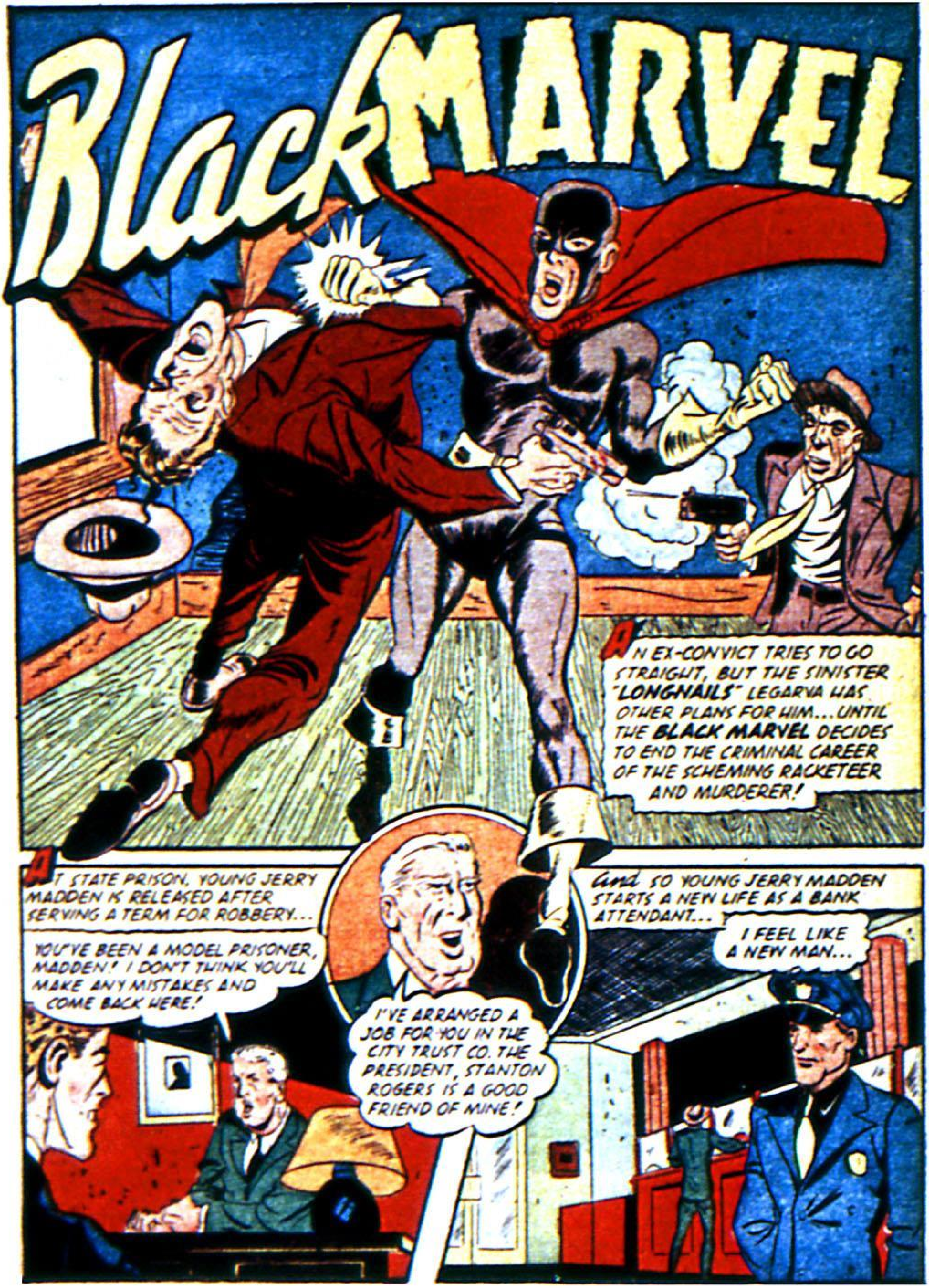
"Here's your man! Had to get him to prove old man Tinker and I had nothing to do with his escape!"

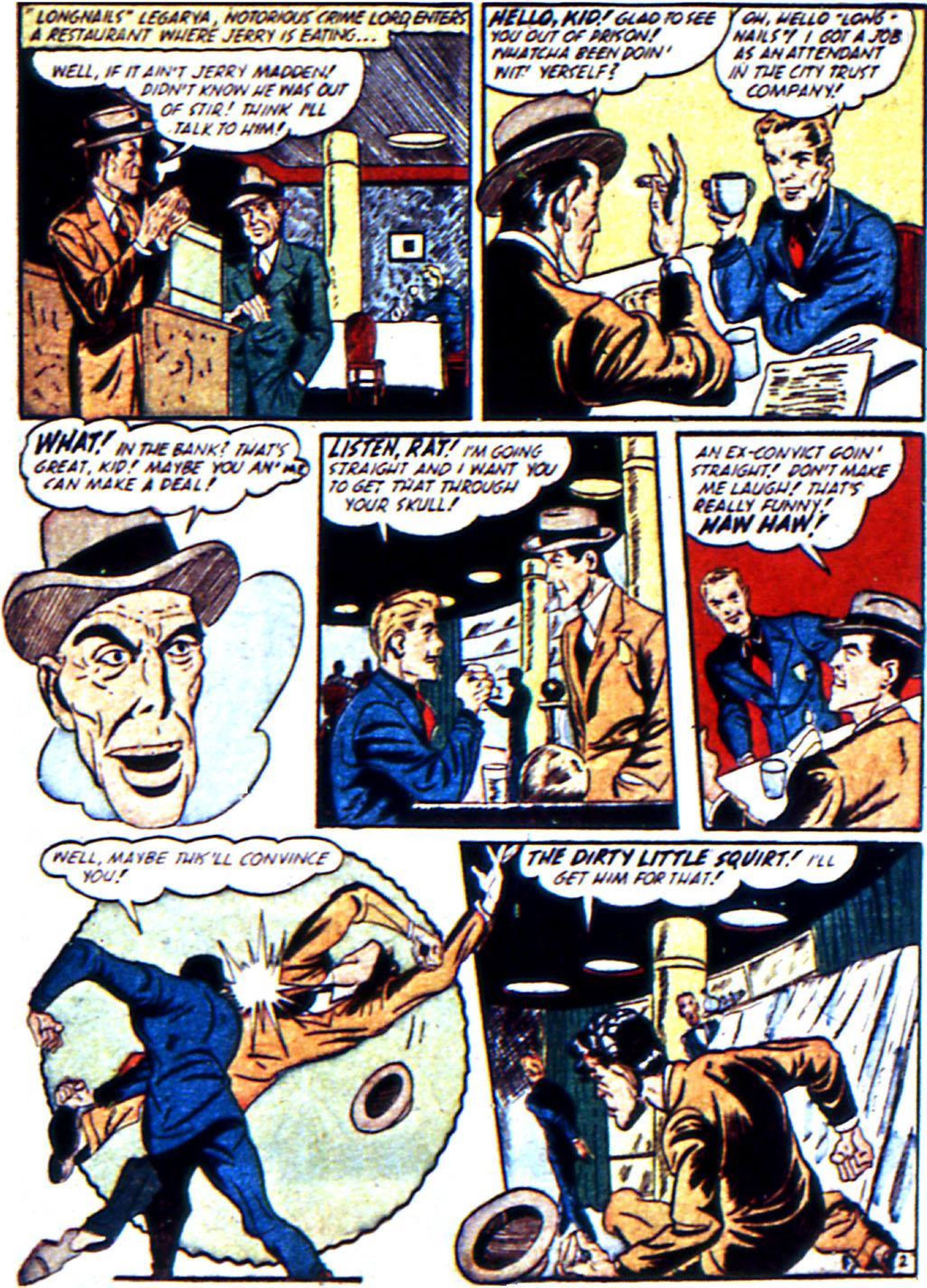
The guard scratched his head. "Good work, young fellow," he remarked. "Guess, I owe ya an apology!"

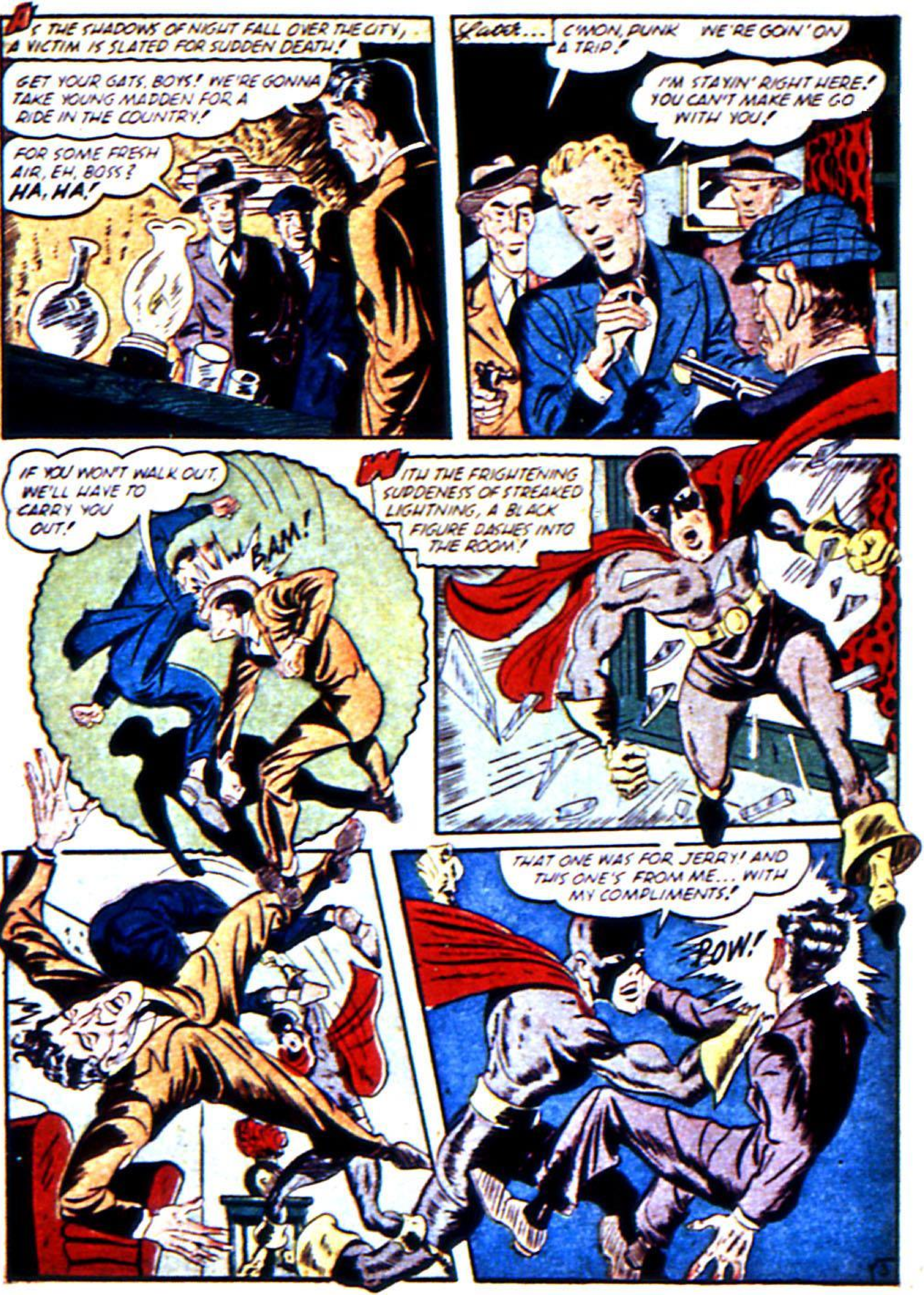
. . . Later, after the killer had been taken away, Mr. Tinker asked Paul to stay on the farm with him and he would give him a share in the place. Paul thought it over, and was inclined to accept. But a sudden sound in the distance made him change his mind. It was the whooo of a train whistle.

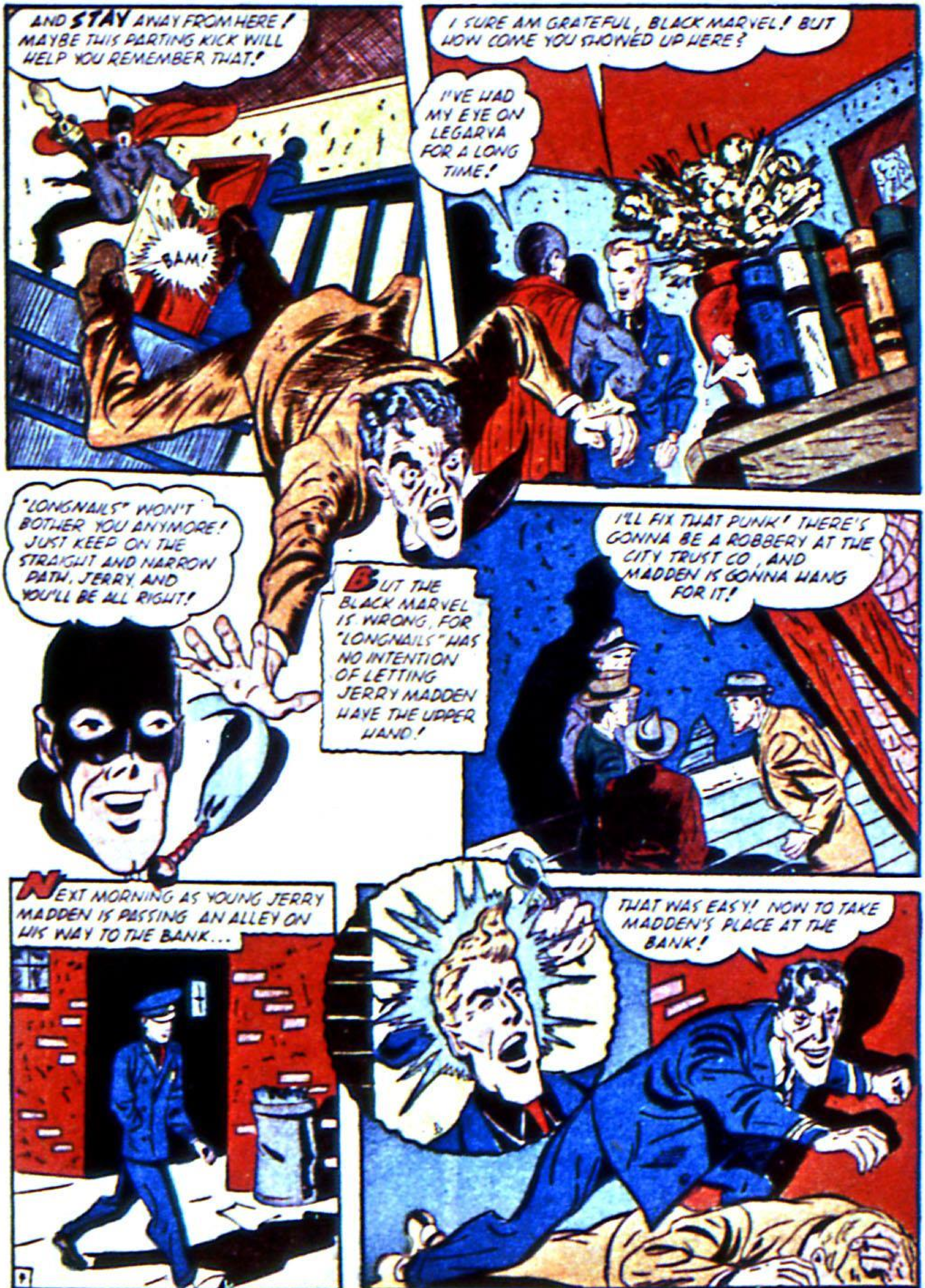
"Sorry, Mr. Tinker, I guess I'll be on my way. But thanks for the offer anyway!"

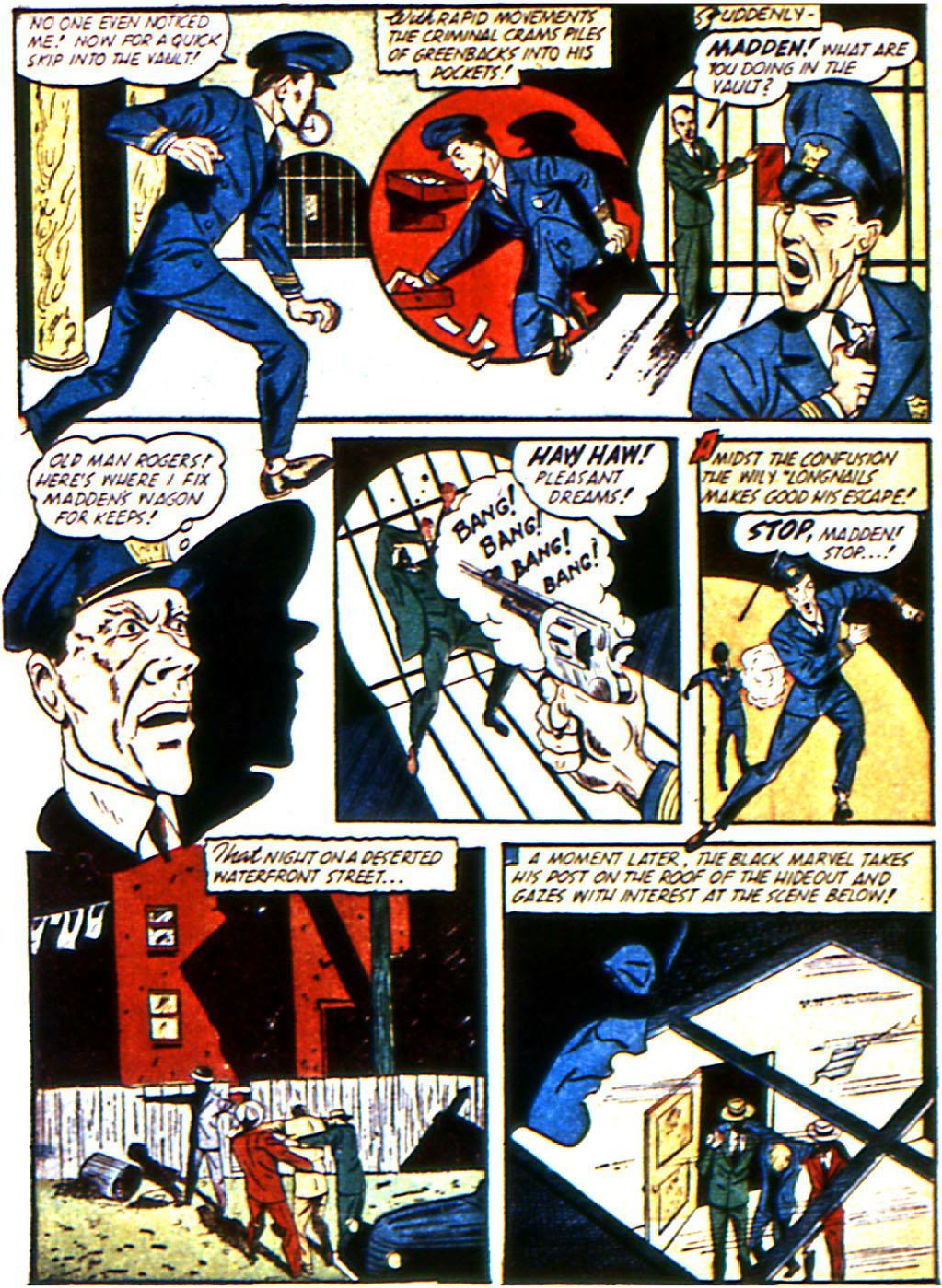
So, Paul Kemp followed the lure of the wanderlust again as he walked slowly away and was soon swallowed up by the mists of the night!

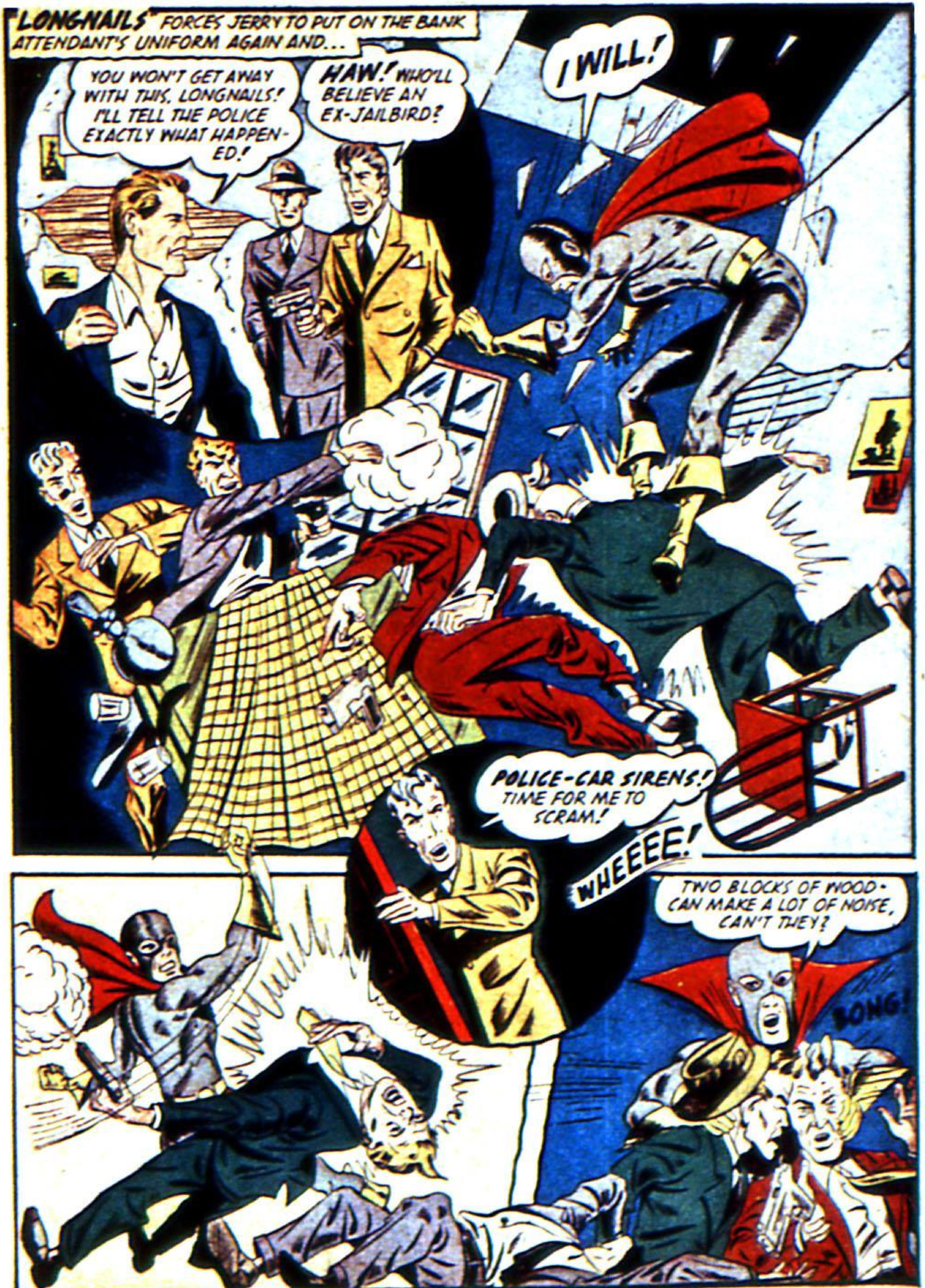

Black MARVEL
AN EX-CONVICT TRIES TO GO STRAIGHT, BUT THE SINISTER "LONGNAILS" LEGARVA HAS OTHER PLANS FOR HIM... UNTIL THE BLACK MARVEL DECIDES TO END THE CRIMINAL CAREER OF THE SCHEMING RACKETEER AND MURDERER!
AT STATE PRISON, YOUNG JERRY MADDEN IS RELEASED AFTER SERVING A TERM FOR ROBBERY...
YOU'VE BEEN A MODEL PRISONER, MADDEN! I DON'T THINK YOU'LL MAKE ANY MISTAKES AND COME BACK HERE!
I'VE ARRANGED A JOB FOR YOU IN THE CITY TRUST CO. THE PRESIDENT, STANTON ROGERS IS A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE!
And SO YOUNG JERRY MADDEN STARTS A NEW LIFE AS A BANK ATTENDANT...
I FEEL LIKE A NEW MAN...

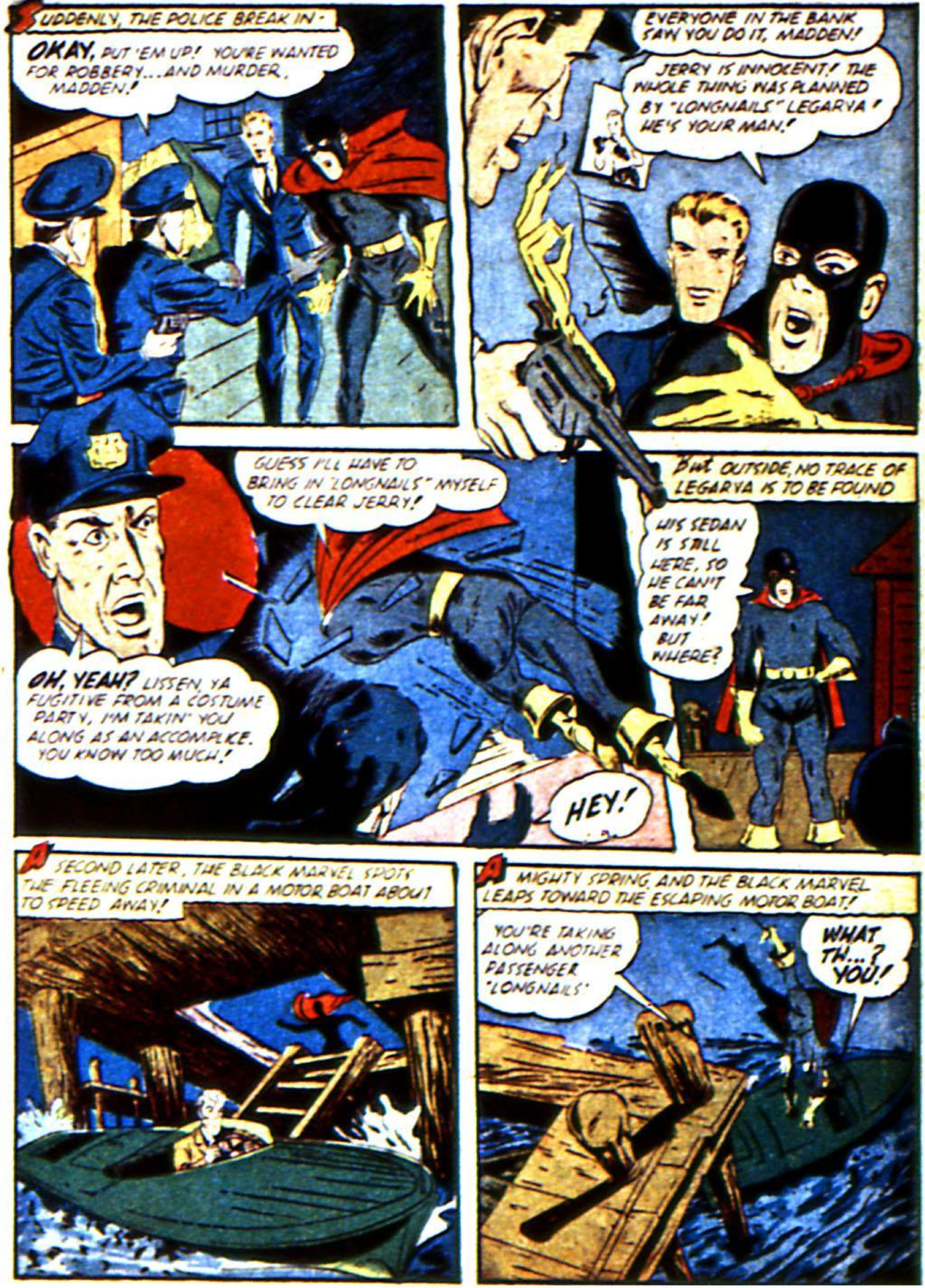

"LONGNAILS" LEGARVA, NOTORIOUS CRIME LORD ENTERS A RESTAURANT WHERE JERRY IS EATING...
WELL, IF IT AIN'T JERRY MADDEN! DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS OUT OF STIR! THINK I'LL TALK TO HIM!
HELLO, KID! GLAD TO SEE YOU OUT OF PRISON! WHATCHA BEEN DOIN' WIT' YERSELF?
OH, HELLO "LONG-NAILS"! I GOT A JOB AS AN ATTENDANT IN THE CITY TRUST COMPANY!
WHAT! IN THE BANK! THAT'S GREAT, KID! MAYBE YOU AN' ME CAN MAKE A DEAL!
LISTEN, RAT! I'M GOING STRAIGHT AND I WANT YOU TO GET THAT THROUGH YOUR SKULL!
AN EX-CONVICT GOIN' STRAIGHT! DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH! THAT'S REALLY FUNNY! HAW HAW!
WELL, MAYBE THIS'LL CONVINCE YOU!
THE DIRTY LITTLE SQUIRT! I'LL GET HIM FOR THAT!

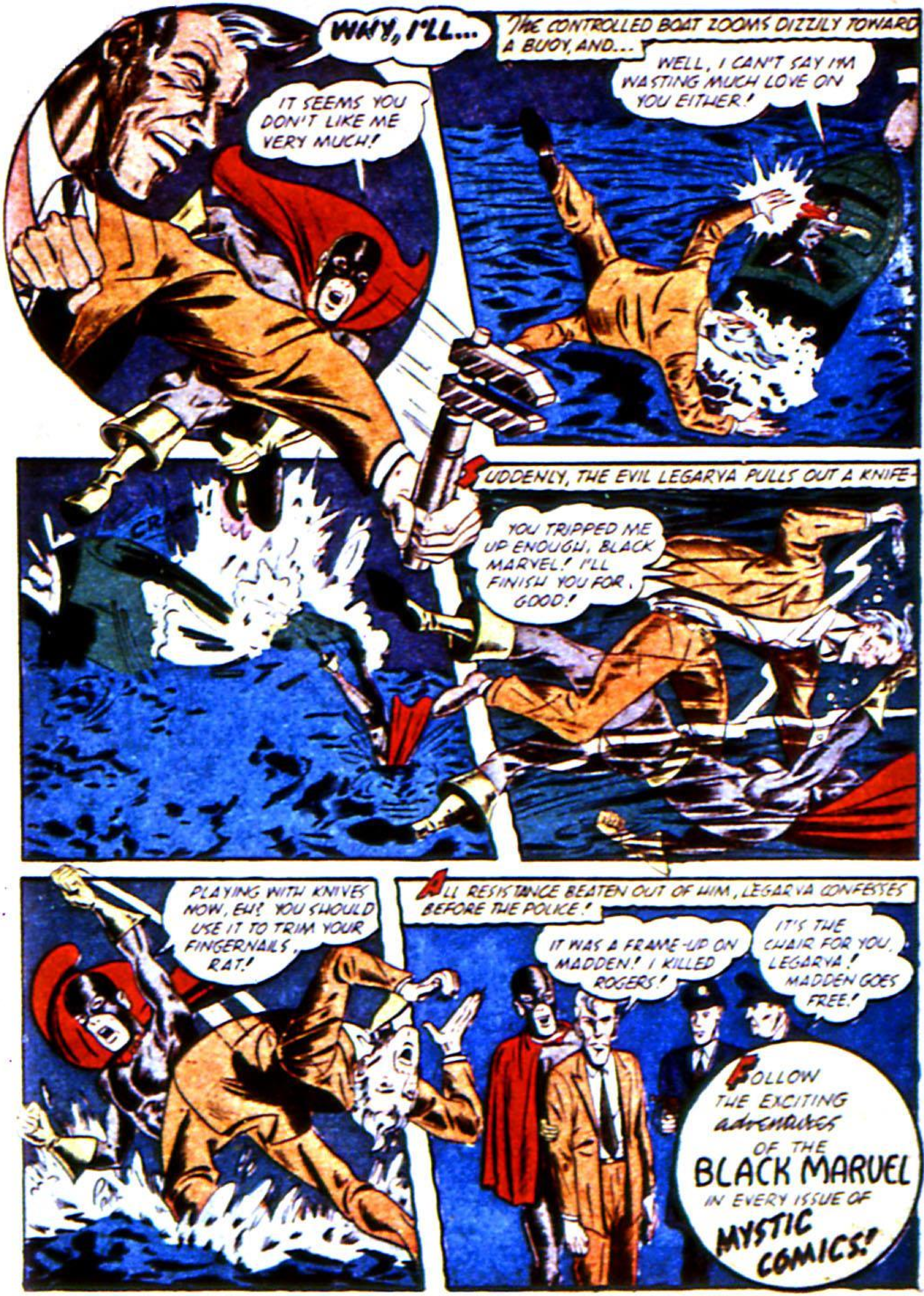

AS THE SHADOWS OF NIGHT FALL OVER THE CITY, A VICTIM IS SLATED FOR SUDDEN DEATH!
GET YOUR GATS, BOYS! WE'RE GONNA TAKE YOUNG MADDEN FOR A RIDE IN THE COUNTRY!
FOR SOME FRESH AIR, EH, BOSS? HA, HA!
Later...
C'MON, PUNK WE'RE GOIN' ON A TRIP!
I'M STAYIN' RIGHT HERE! YOU CAN'T MAKE ME GO WITH YOU!
IF YOU WON'T WALK OUT, WE'LL HAVE TO CARRY YOU OUT!
BAM!
WITH THE FRIGHTENING SUDDENESS OF STREAKED LIGHTNING, A BLACK FIGURE DASHES INTO THE ROOM!
THAT ONE WAS FOR JERRY! AND THIS ONE'S FROM ME... WITH MY COMPLIMENTS!
POW!

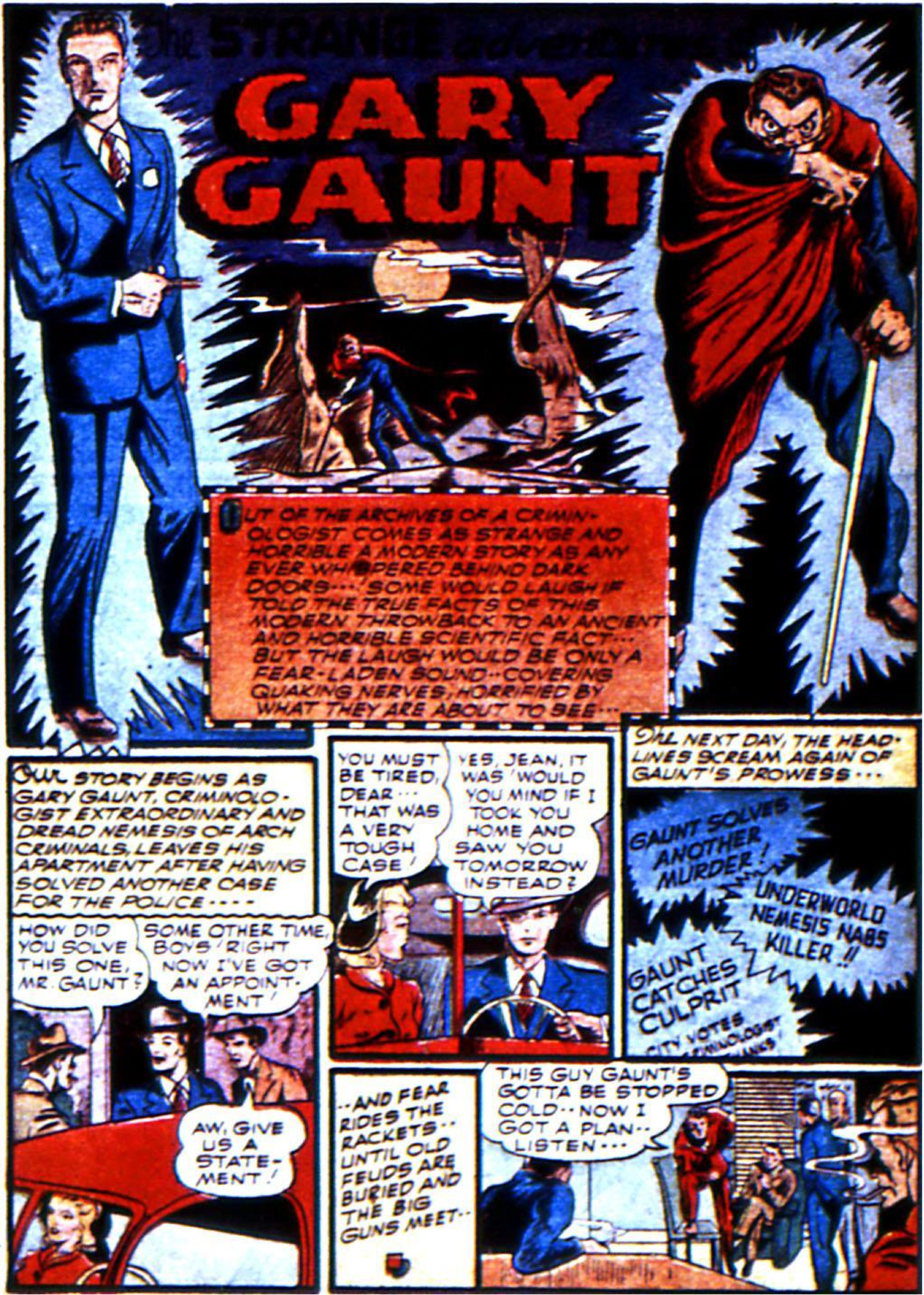

AND STAY AWAY FROM HERE! MAYBE THIS PARTING KICK WILL HELP YOU REMEMBER THAT!
BAM!
I SURE AM GRATEFUL, BLACK MARVEL! BUT HOW COME YOU SHOWED UP HERE?
I'VE HAD MY EYE ON LEGARVA FOR A LONG TIME!
"LONGNAILS" WON'T BOTHER YOU ANYMORE! JUST KEEP ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW PATH, JERRY, AND YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
BUT THE BLACK MARVEL IS WRONG, FOR "LONGNAILS" HAS NO INTENTION OF LETTING JERRY MADDEN HAVE THE UPPER HAND!
I'LL FIX THAT PUNK! THERE'S GONNA BE A ROBBERY AT THE CITY TRUST CO., AND MADDEN IS GONNA HANG FOR IT!
NEXT MORNING AS YOUNG JERRY MADDEN IS PASSING AN ALLEY ON HIS WAY TO THE BANK...
THAT WAS EASY! NOW TO TAKE MADDEN'S PLACE AT THE BANK!

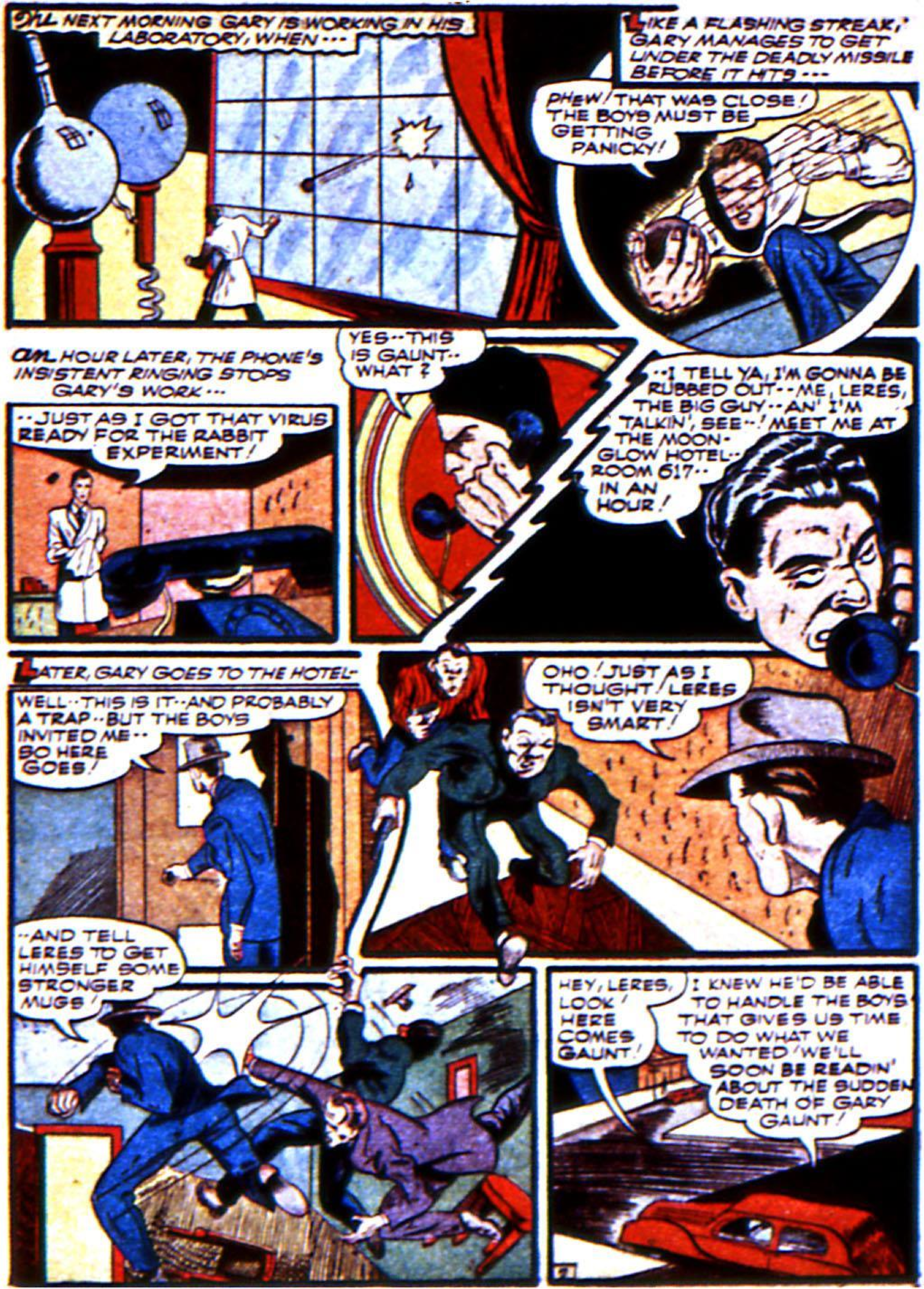

NO ONE EVEN NOTICED ME! NOW FOR A QUICK SKIP INTO THE VAULT!
With RAPID MOVEMENTS THE CRIMINAL CRAMS PILES OF GREENBACKS INTO HIS POCKETS!
SUDDENLY-
MADDEN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THE VAULT?
OLD MAN ROGERS! HERE'S WHERE I FIX MADDEN'S WAGON FOR KEEPS!
HAW HAW! PLEASANT DREAMS!
BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG!
AMIDST THE CONFUSION THE WILY "LONGNAILS MAKES GOOD HIS ESCAPE!
STOP, MADDEN! STOP...!
That NIGHT ON A DESERTED WATERFRONT STREET...
A MOMENT LATER, THE BLACK MARVEL TAKES HIS POST ON THE ROOF OF THE HIDEOUT AND GAZES WITH INTEREST AT THE SCENE BELOW!

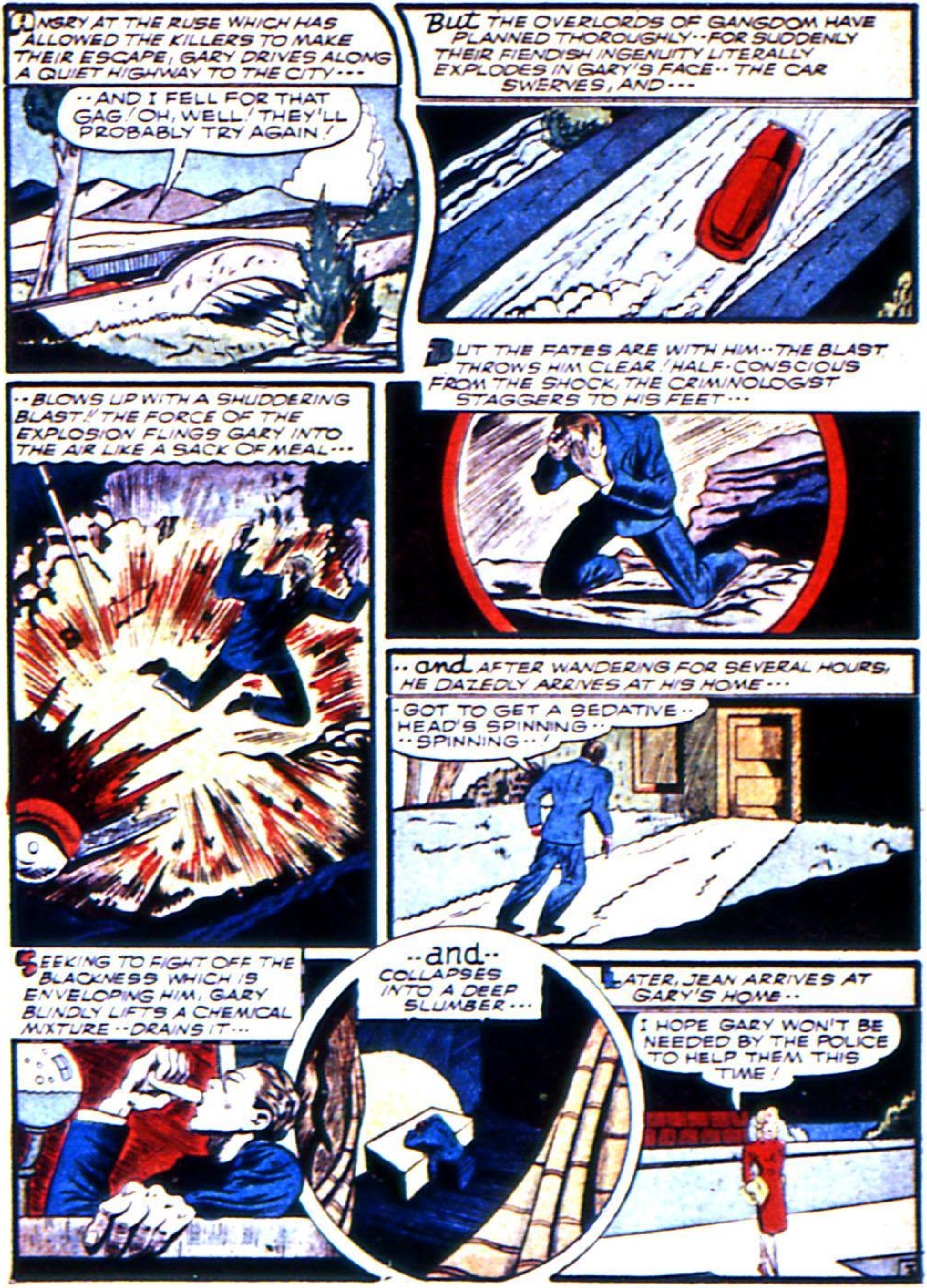

"LONGNAILS" FORCES JERRY TO PUT ON THE BANK ATTENDANT'S UNIFORM AGAIN AND...
YOU WON'T GET AWAY WITH THIS, LONGNAILS! I'LL TELL THE POLICE EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED!
HAW! WHO'LL BELIEVE AN EX-JAILBIRD?
I WILL!
POLICE-CAR SIRENS! TIME FOR ME TO SCRAM!
WHEEEEE!
TWO BLOCKS OF WOOD - CAN MAKE A LOT OF NOISE, CAN'T THEY?
BONG!

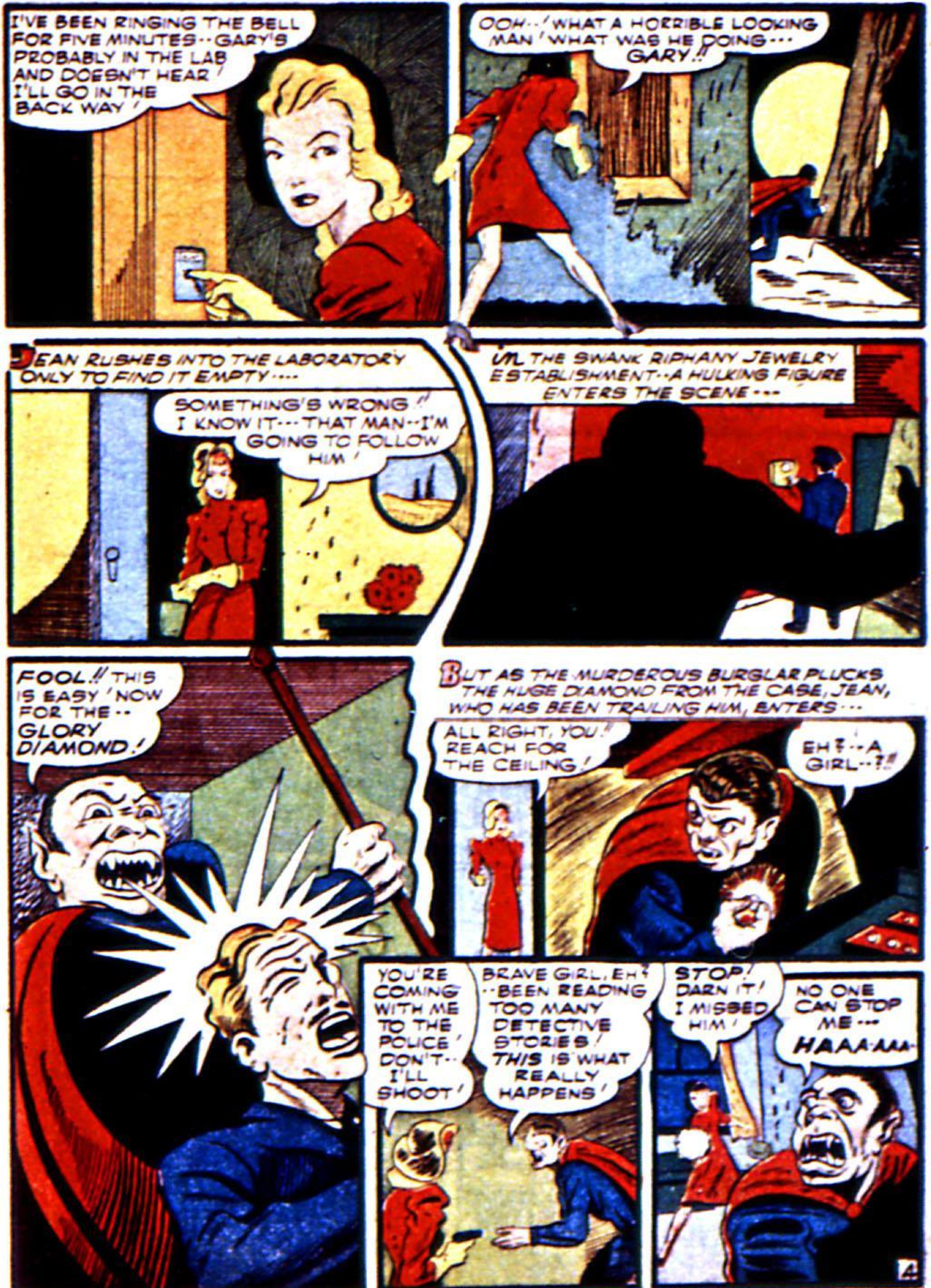

SUDDENLY, THE POLICE BREAK IN -
OKAY, PUT 'EM UP! YOU'RE WANTED FOR ROBBERY... AND MURDER, MADDEN!
EVERYONE IN THE BANK SAW YOU DO IT, MADDEN!
JERRY IS INNOCENT! THE WHOLE THING WAS PLANNED BY "LONGNAILS" LEGARYA! HE'S YOUR MAN!
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO BRING IN "LONGNAILS" MYSELF TO CLEAR JERRY!
OH, YEAH? LISSEN, YA FUGITIVE FROM A COSTUME PARTY, I'M TAKIN' YOU ALONG AS AN ACCOMPLICE. YOU KNOW TOO MUCH!
HEY!
But OUTSIDE, NO TRACE OF LEGARYA IS TO BE FOUND
HIS SEDAN IS STILL HERE, SO HE CAN'T BE FAR AWAY! BUT WHERE?
A SECOND LATER, THE BLACK MARVEL SPOTS THE FLEEING CRIMINAL IN A MOTOR BOAT ABOUT TO SPEED AWAY!
A MIGHTY SPRING, AND THE BLACK MARVEL LEAPS TOWARD THE ESCAPING MOTOR BOAT!
YOU'RE TAKING ALONG ANOTHER PASSENGER "LONGNAILS"
WHAT TH...? YOU!

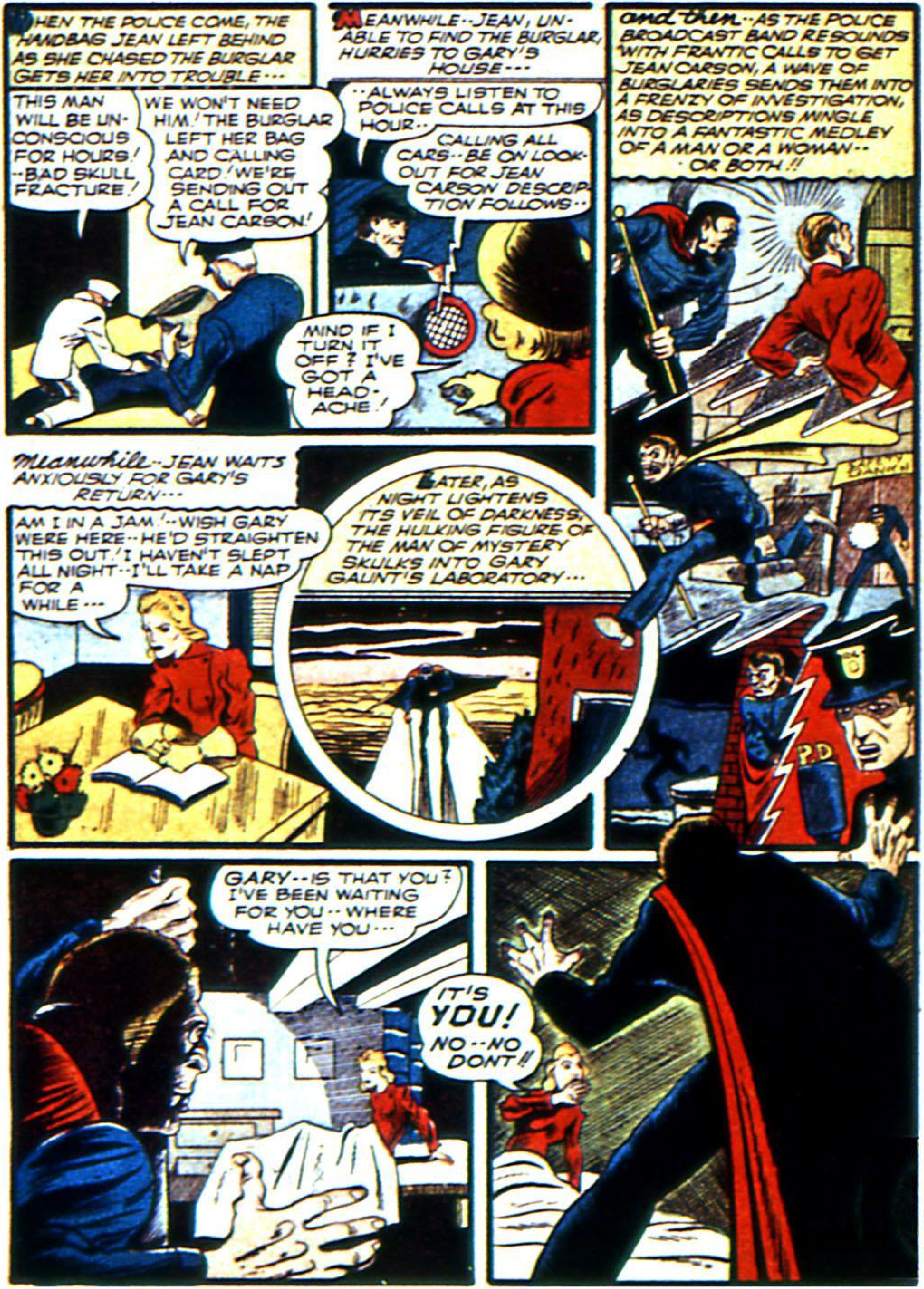

WHY, I'LL...
IT SEEMS YOU DON'T LIKE ME VERY MUCH!
THE CONTROLLED BOAT ZOOMS DIZZILY TOWARD A BUOY, AND...
WELL, I CAN'T SAY I'M WASTING MUCH LOVE ON YOU EITHER!
CRASH!
SUDDENLY, THE EVIL LEGARYA PULLS OUT A KNIFE-
YOU TRIPPED ME UP ENOUGH, BLACK MARVEL! I'LL FINISH YOU FOR GOOD!
PLAYING WITH KNIVES NOW, EH? YOU SHOULD USE IT TO TRIM YOUR FINGERNAILS, RAT!
ALL RESISTANCE BEATEN OUT OF HIM, LEGARYA CONFESSES BEFORE THE POLICE!
IT WAS A FRAME-UP ON MADDEN! I KILLED ROGERS!
IT'S THE CHAIR FOR YOU, LEGARYA! MADDEN GOES FREE!
FOLLOW THE EXCITING adventures OF THE BLACK MARVEL IN EVERY ISSUE OF MYSTIC COMICS!

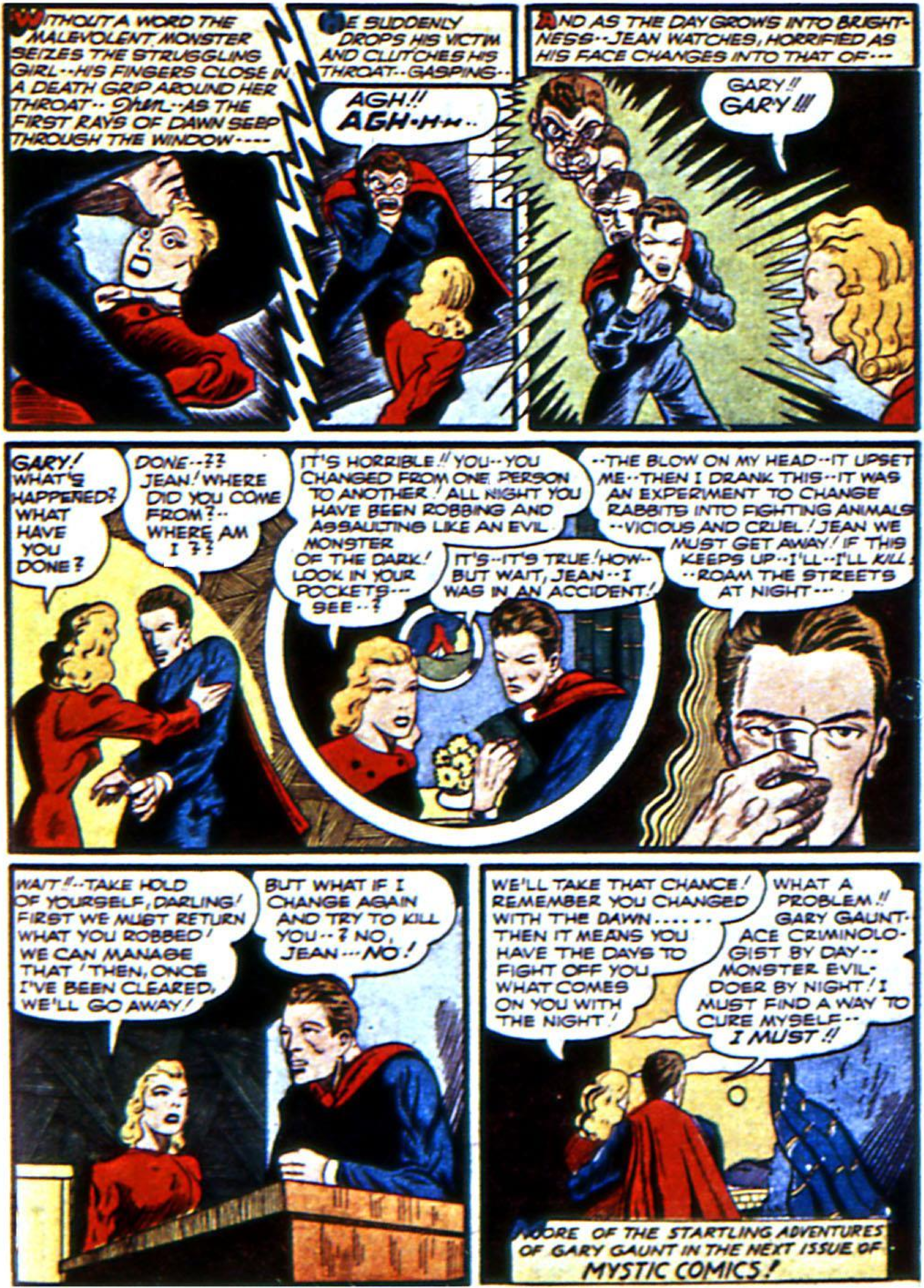

The STRANGE adventures of
GARY GAUNT
OUT OF THE ARCHIVES OF A CRIMINOLOGIST COMES AS STRANGE AND HORRIBLE A MODERN STORY AS ANY EVER WHISPERED BEHIND DARK DOORS... SOME WOULD LAUGH IF TOLD THE TRUE FACTS OF THIS MODERN THROWBACK TO AN ANCIENT AND HORRIBLE SCIENTIFIC FACT... BUT THE LAUGH WOULD BE ONLY A FEAR-LADEN SOUND... COVERING QUAKING NERVES, HORRIFIED BY WHAT THEY ARE ABOUT TO SEE...
OUR STORY BEGINS AS GARY GAUNT, CRIMINOLOGIST EXTRAORDINARY AND DREAD NEMESIS OF ARCH CRIMINALS, LEAVES HIS APARTMENT AFTER HAVING SOLVED ANOTHER CASE FOR THE POLICE....
HOW DID YOU SOLVE THIS ONE, MR. GAUNT?
SOME OTHER TIME, BOYS! RIGHT NOW I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT!
AW, GIVE US A STATEMENT!
YOU MUST BE TIRED, DEAR... THAT WAS A VERY TOUGH CASE!
YES, JEAN, IT WAS! WOULD YOU MIND IF I TOOK YOU HOME AND SAW YOU TOMORROW INSTEAD?
THE NEXT DAY, THE HEADLINES SCREAM AGAIN OF GAUNT'S PROWESS...
GAUNT SOLVES ANOTHER MURDER!
UNDERWORLD NEMESIS NABS KILLER!!
GAUNT CATCHES CULPRIT
CITY VOTES CRIMINOLOGIST
...AND FEAR RIDES THE RACKETS... UNTIL OLD FEUDS ARE BURIED AND THE BIG GUNS MEET...
THIS GUY GAUNT'S GOTTA BE STOPPED COLD... NOW I GOT A PLAN... LISTEN...


NEXT MORNING GARY IS WORKING IN HIS LABORATORY, WHEN ---
LIKE A FLASHING STREAK, GARY MANAGES TO GET UNDER THE DEADLY MISSILE BEFORE IT HITS ---
PHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE! THE BOYS MUST BE GETTING PANICKY!
AN HOUR LATER, THE PHONE'S INSISTENT RINGING STOPS GARY'S WORK ---
--JUST AS I GOT THAT VIRUS READY FOR THE RABBIT EXPERIMENT!
YES--THIS IS GAUNT--WHAT?
--I TELL YA, I'M GONNA BE RUBBED OUT--ME, LERES, THE BIG GUY--AN' I'M TALKIN', SEE--! MEET ME AT THE MOON-GLOW HOTEL--ROOM 617--IN AN HOUR!
LATER, GARY GOES TO THE HOTEL-
WELL--THIS IS IT--AND PROBABLY A TRAP--BUT THE BOYS INVITED ME--SO HERE GOES!
OHO! JUST AS I THOUGHT! LERES ISN'T VERY SMART!
--AND TELL LERES TO GET HIMSELF SOME STRONGER MUGS!
HEY, LERES, LOOK! HERE COMES GAUNT!
I KNEW HE'D BE ABLE TO HANDLE THE BOYS. THAT GIVES US TIME TO DO WHAT WE WANTED! WE'LL SOON BE READIN' ABOUT THE SUDDEN DEATH OF GARY GAUNT!

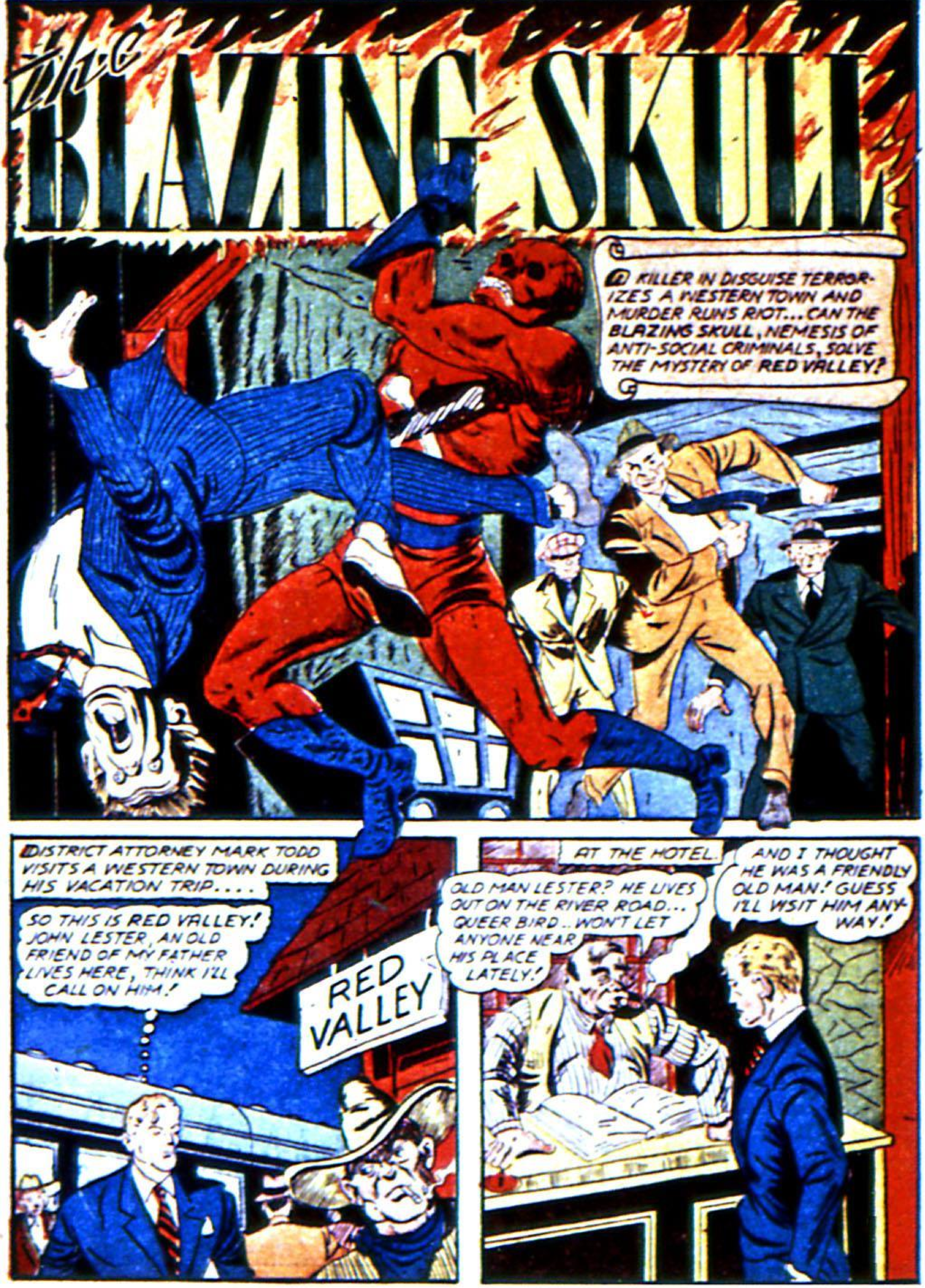

ANGRY AT THE RUSE WHICH HAS ALLOWED THE KILLERS TO MAKE THEIR ESCAPE, GARY DRIVES ALONG A QUIET HIGHWAY TO THE CITY···
··AND I FELL FOR THAT GAG! OH, WELL! THEY'LL PROBABLY TRY AGAIN!
BUT THE OVERLORDS OF GANGDOM HAVE PLANNED THOROUGHLY··FOR SUDDENLY THEIR FIENDISH INGENUITY LITERALLY EXPLODES IN GARY'S FACE··THE CAR SWERVES, AND···
··BLOWS UP WITH A SHUDDERING BLAST!! THE FORCE OF THE EXPLOSION FLINGS GARY INTO THE AIR LIKE A SACK OF MEAL···
BUT THE FATES ARE WITH HIM··THE BLAST THROWS HIM CLEAR! HALF-CONSCIOUS FROM THE SHOCK, THE CRIMINOLOGIST STAGGERS TO HIS FEET···
··AND AFTER WANDERING FOR SEVERAL HOURS, HE DAZEDLY ARRIVES AT HIS HOME···
·GOT TO GET A SEDATIVE·· HEAD'S SPINNING·· ··SPINNING··!
SEEKING TO FIGHT OFF THE BLACKNESS WHICH IS ENVELOPING HIM, GARY BLINDLY LIFTS A CHEMICAL MIXTURE··DRAINS IT···
··AND·· COLLAPSES INTO A DEEP SLUMBER···
LATER, JEAN ARRIVES AT GARY'S HOME··
I HOPE GARY WON'T BE NEEDED BY THE POLICE TO HELP THEM THIS TIME!

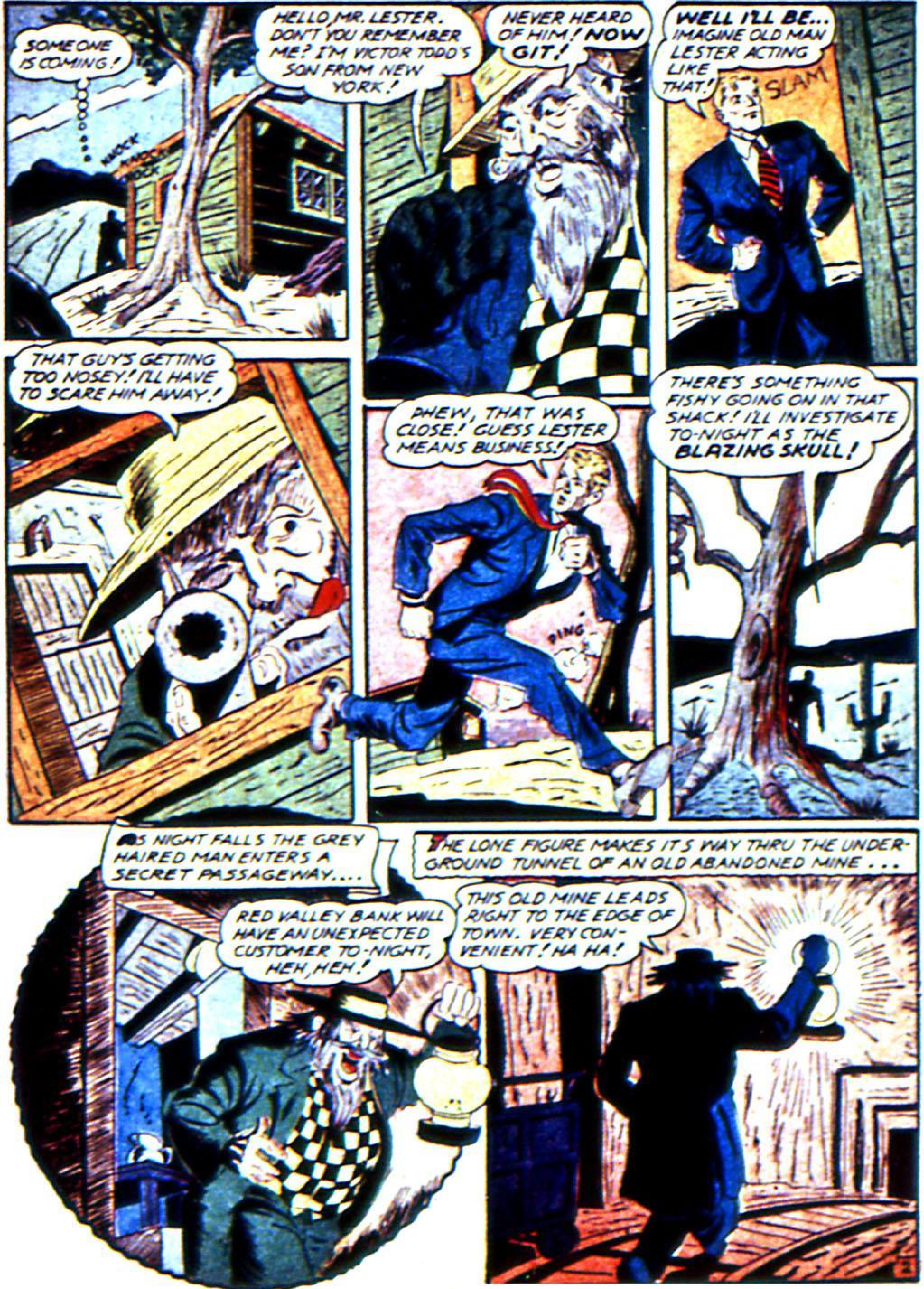

I'VE BEEN RINGING THE BELL FOR FIVE MINUTES--GARY'S PROBABLY IN THE LAB AND DOESN'T HEAR! I'LL GO IN THE BACK WAY!
OOH--! WHAT A HORRIBLE LOOKING MAN! WHAT WAS HE DOING--- GARY!!
JEAN RUSHES INTO THE LABORATORY ONLY TO FIND IT EMPTY----
SOMETHING'S WRONG!! I KNOW IT--- THAT MAN--I'M GOING TO FOLLOW HIM!
IN THE SWANK RIPHANY JEWELRY ESTABLISHMENT--A HULKING FIGURE ENTERS THE SCENE---
FOOL!! THIS IS EASY! NOW FOR THE-- GLORY DIAMOND!
BUT AS THE MURDEROUS BURGLAR PLUCKS THE HUGE DIAMOND FROM THE CASE, JEAN, WHO HAS BEEN TRAILING HIM, ENTERS---
ALL RIGHT, YOU!! REACH FOR THE CEILING!
EH?--A GIRL--?!!
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME TO THE POLICE! DON'T-- I'LL SHOOT!
BRAVE GIRL, EH? --BEEN READING TOO MANY DETECTIVE STORIES! THIS IS WHAT REALLY HAPPENS!
STOP! DARN IT! I MISSED HIM!
NO ONE CAN STOP ME--- HAAA-AAA

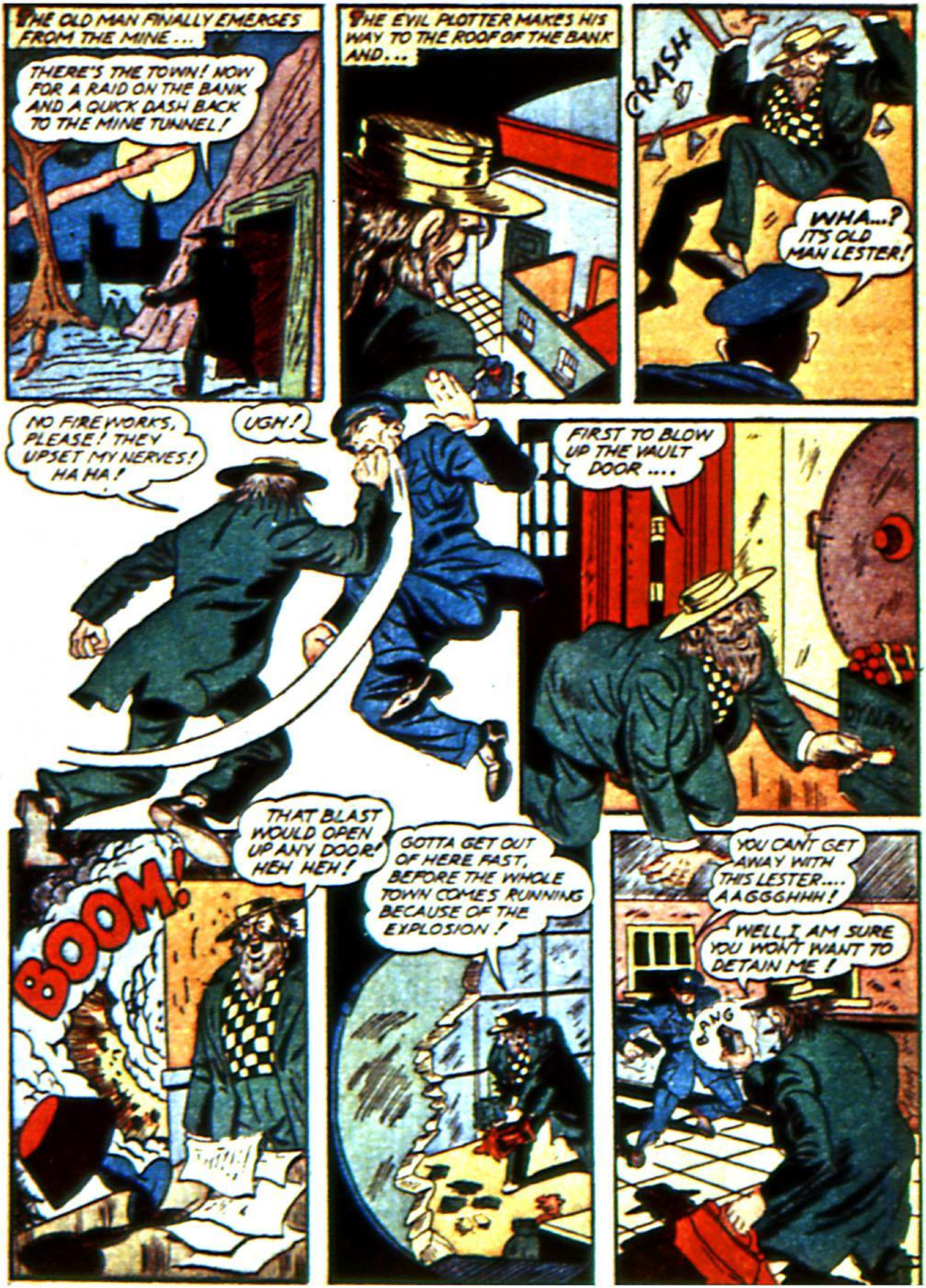

WHEN THE POLICE COME, THE HANDBAG JEAN LEFT BEHIND AS SHE CHASED THE BURGLAR GETS HER INTO TROUBLE ---
THIS MAN WILL BE UNCONSCIOUS FOR HOURS! --BAD SKULL FRACTURE!
WE WON'T NEED HIM! THE BURGLAR LEFT HER BAG AND CALLING CARD! WE'RE SENDING OUT A CALL FOR JEAN CARSON!
MEANWHILE--JEAN, UNABLE TO FIND THE BURGLAR, HURRIES TO GARY'S HOUSE---
--ALWAYS LISTEN TO POLICE CALLS AT THIS HOUR--
CALLING ALL CARS--BE ON LOOKOUT FOR JEAN CARSON DESCRIPTION FOLLOWS--
MIND IF I TURN IT OFF? I'VE GOT A HEADACHE!
and then--AS THE POLICE BROADCAST BAND RESOUNDS WITH FRANTIC CALLS TO GET JEAN CARSON, A WAVE OF BURGLARIES SENDS THEM INTO A FRENZY OF INVESTIGATION, AS DESCRIPTIONS MINGLE INTO A FANTASTIC MEDLEY OF A MAN OR A WOMAN-- --OR BOTH!!
P.D
Meanwhile--JEAN WAITS ANXIOUSLY FOR GARY'S RETURN---
AM I IN A JAM!--WISH GARY WERE HERE--HE'D STRAIGHTEN THIS OUT! I HAVEN'T SLEPT ALL NIGHT--I'LL TAKE A NAP FOR A WHILE---
LATER, AS NIGHT LIGHTENS ITS VEIL OF DARKNESS, THE HULKING FIGURE OF THE MAN OF MYSTERY SKULKS INTO GARY GAUNT'S LABORATORY---
GARY--IS THAT YOU? I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU--WHERE HAVE YOU---
IT'S YOU! NO--NO DONT!!

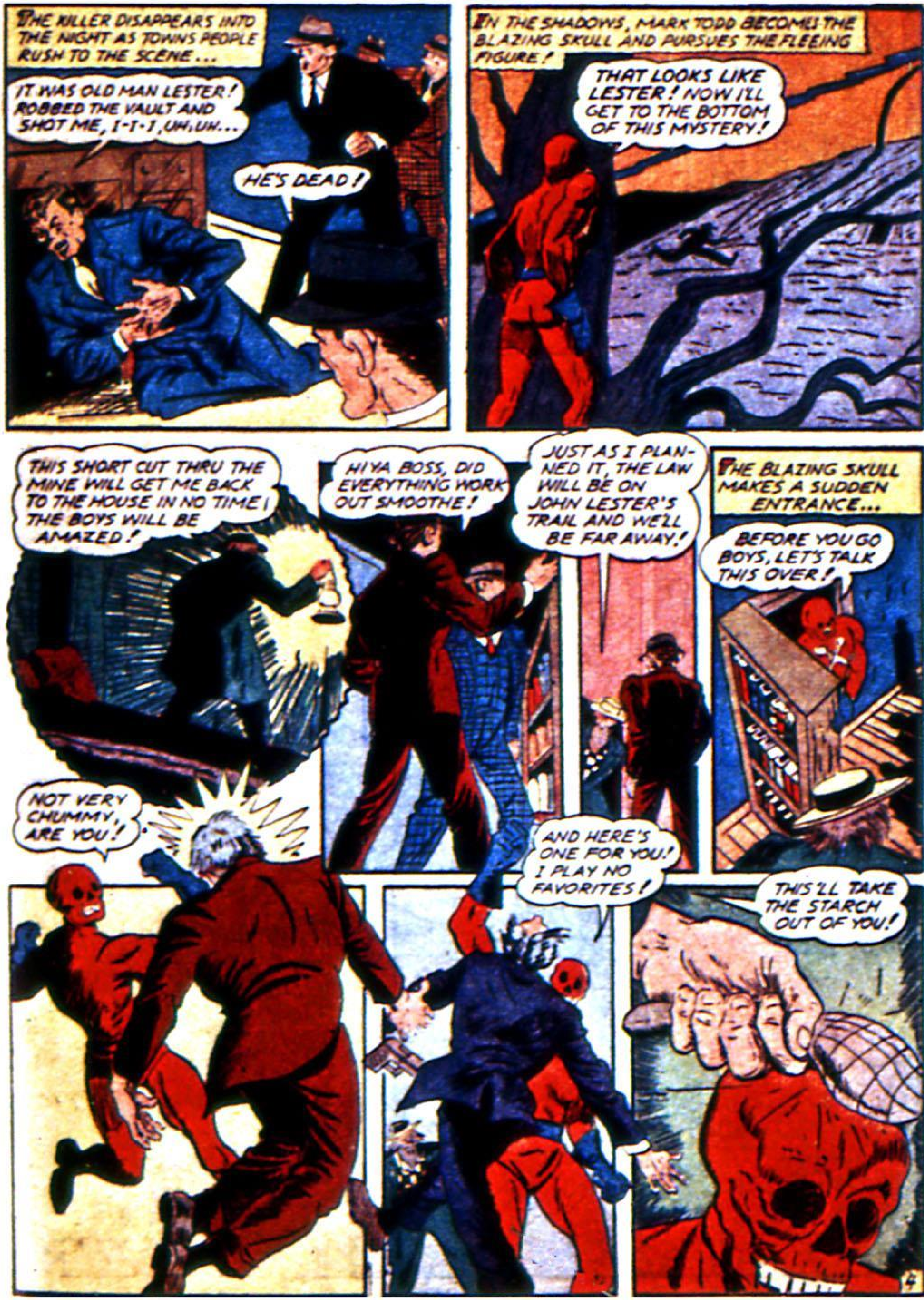

WITHOUT A WORD THE MALEVOLENT MONSTER SEIZES THE STRUGGLING GIRL--HIS FINGERS CLOSE IN A DEATH GRIP AROUND HER THROAT-- Until--AS THE FIRST RAYS OF DAWN SEEP THROUGH THE WINDOW----
HE SUDDENLY DROPS HIS VICTIM AND CLUTCHES HIS THROAT--GASPING--
AGH!! AGH-H-H--
AND AS THE DAY GROWS INTO BRIGHTNESS--JEAN WATCHES, HORRIFIED AS HIS FACE CHANGES INTO THAT OF---
GARY!! GARY!!!
GARY! WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
DONE--?? JEAN! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?-- WHERE AM I ??
IT'S HORRIBLE!! YOU--YOU CHANGED FROM ONE PERSON TO ANOTHER! ALL NIGHT YOU HAVE BEEN ROBBING AND ASSAULTING LIKE AN EVIL MONSTER OF THE DARK! LOOK IN YOUR POCKETS-- SEE--?
IT'S--IT'S TRUE! HOW--BUT WAIT, JEAN--I WAS IN AN ACCIDENT!
--THE BLOW ON MY HEAD--IT UPSET ME--THEN I DRANK THIS--IT WAS AN EXPERMENT TO CHANGE RABBITS INTO FIGHTING ANIMALS--VICIOUS AND CRUEL! JEAN WE MUST GET AWAY! IF THIS KEEPS UP--I'LL--I'LL KILL--ROAM THE STREETS AT NIGHT---
WAIT!!--TAKE HOLD OF YOURSELF, DARLING! FIRST WE MUST RETURN WHAT YOU ROBBED! WE CAN MANAGE THAT! THEN, ONCE I'VE BEEN CLEARED, WE'LL GO AWAY!
BUT WHAT IF I CHANGE AGAIN AND TRY TO KILL YOU--? NO, JEAN---NO!
WE'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE! REMEMBER YOU CHANGED WITH THE DAWN...... THEN IT MEANS YOU HAVE THE DAYS TO FIGHT OFF YOU WHAT COMES ON YOU WITH THE NIGHT!
WHAT A PROBLEM!! GARY GAUNT-ACE CRIMINOLOGIST BY DAY--MONSTER EVIL-DOER BY NIGHT! I MUST FIND A WAY TO CURE MYSELF-- I MUST!!
MORE OF THE STARTLING ADVENTURES OF GARY GAUNT IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF MYSTIC COMICS!

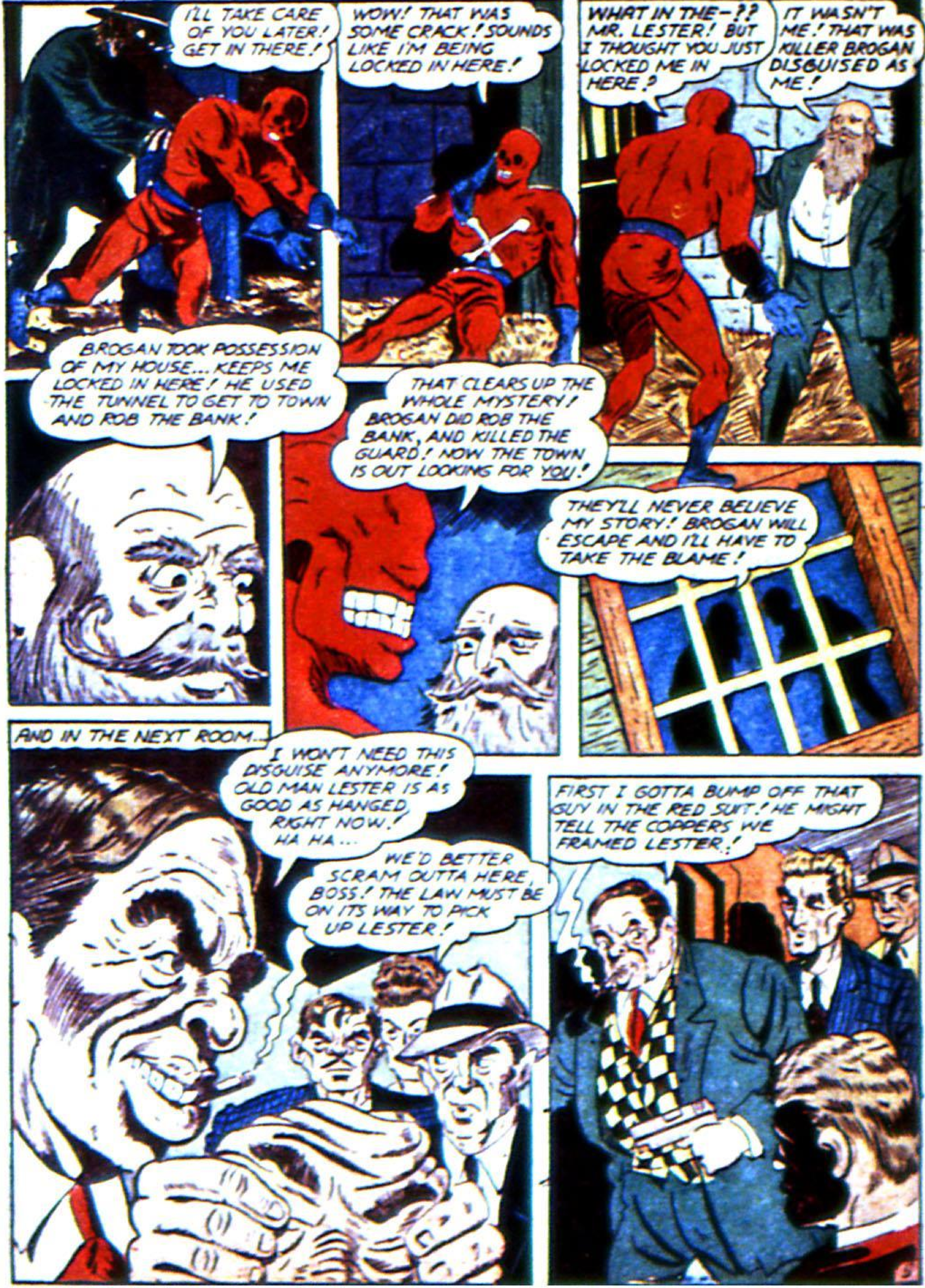
THE BLAZING SKULL

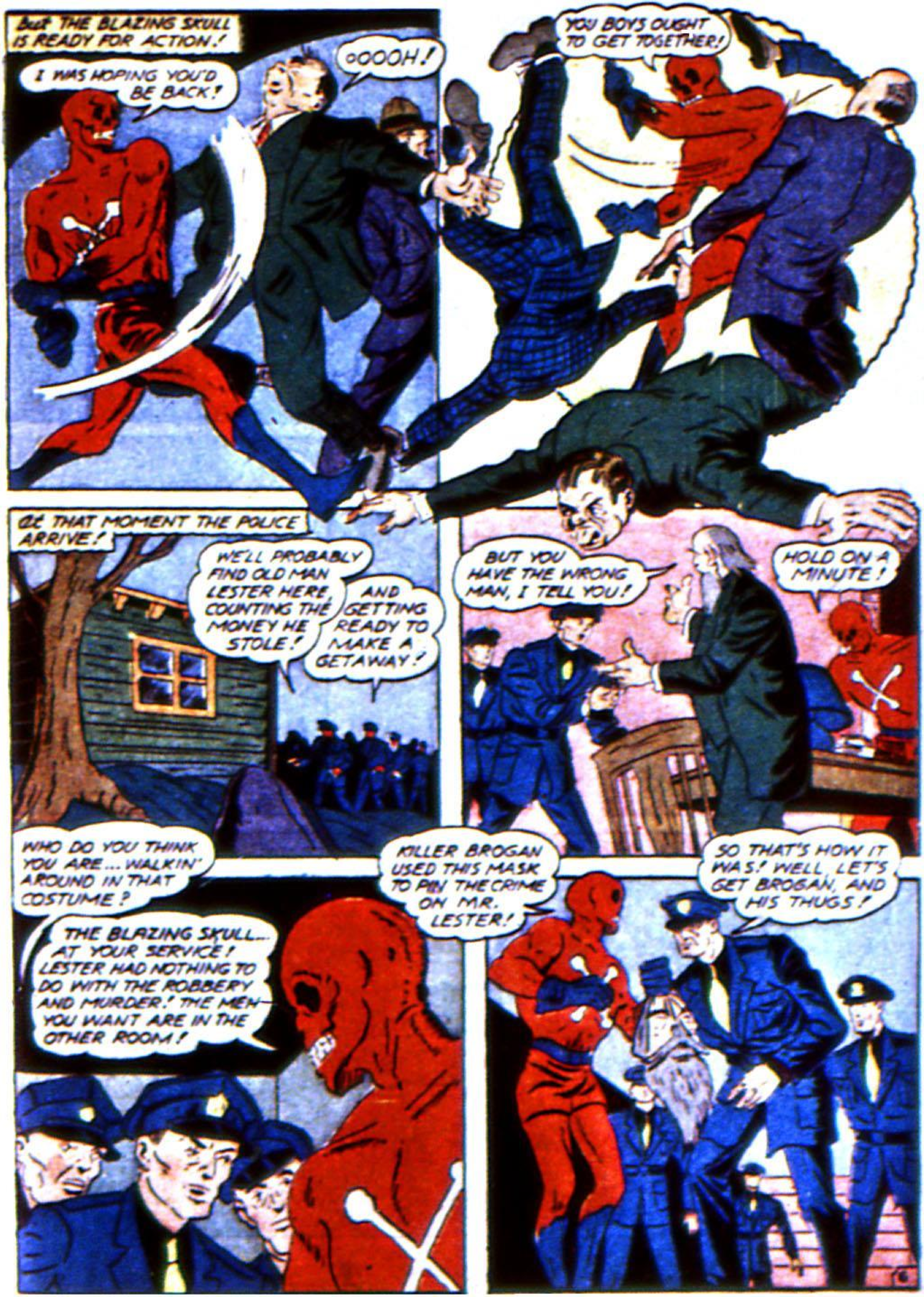

A KILLER IN DISGUISE TERRORIZES A WESTERN TOWN AND MURDER RUNS RIOT... CAN THE BLAZING SKULL, NEMESIS OF ANTI-SOCIAL CRIMINALS, SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF RED VALLEY?
DISTRICT ATTORNEY MARK TODD VISITS A WESTERN TOWN DURING HIS VACATION TRIP....
SO THIS IS RED VALLEY! JOHN LESTER, AN OLD FRIEND OF MY FATHER LIVES HERE, THINK I'LL CALL ON HIM!
RED VALLEY
AT THE HOTEL.
OLD MAN LESTER? HE LIVES OUT ON THE RIVER ROAD... QUEER BIRD.. WON'T LET ANYONE NEAR HIS PLACE LATELY!
AND I THOUGHT HE WAS A FRIENDLY OLD MAN! GUESS I'LL VISIT HIM ANYWAY!

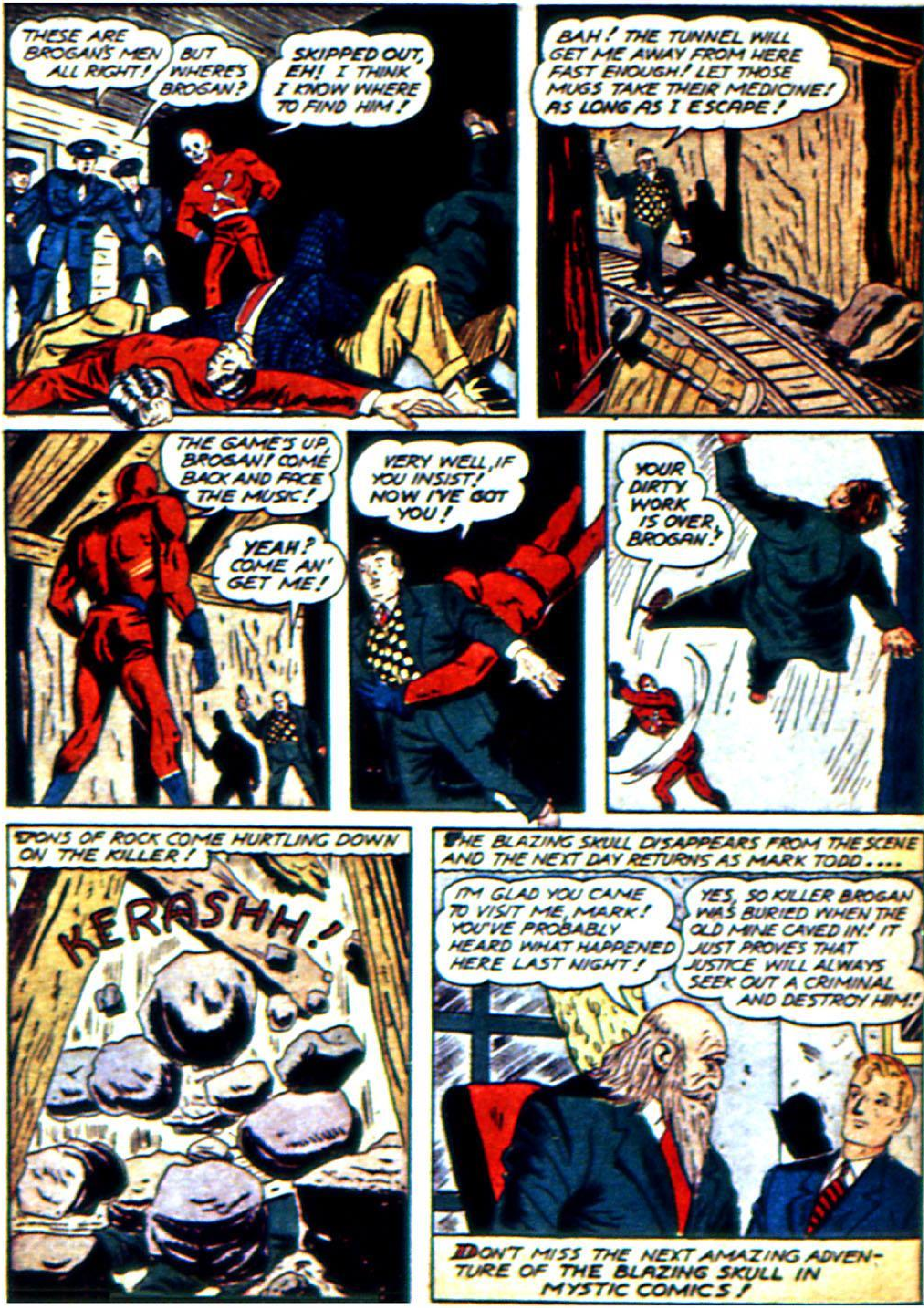

SOME ONE IS COMING!
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
HELLO, MR. LESTER. DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME? I'M VICTOR TODD'S SON FROM NEW YORK!
NEVER HEARD OF HIM! NOW GIT!
WELL I'LL BE... IMAGINE OLD MAN LESTER ACTING LIKE THAT!
SLAM
THAT GUY'S GETTING TOO NOSEY! I'LL HAVE TO SCARE HIM AWAY!
PHEW, THAT WAS CLOSE! GUESS LESTER MEANS BUSINESS!
PING
THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY GOING ON IN THAT SHACK! I'LL INVESTIGATE TO-NIGHT AS THE BLAZING SKULL!
AS NIGHT FALLS THE GREY HAIRED MAN ENTERS A SECRET PASSAGEWAY....
RED VALLEY BANK WILL HAVE AN UNEXPECTED CUSTOMER TO-NIGHT, HEH, HEH!
THE LONE FIGURE MAKES IT'S WAY THRU THE UNDERGROUND TUNNEL OF AN OLD ABANDONED MINE...
THIS OLD MINE LEADS RIGHT TO THE EDGE OF TOWN. VERY CONVENIENT! HA HA!


THE OLD MAN FINALLY EMERGES FROM THE MINE ...
THERE'S THE TOWN! NOW FOR A RAID ON THE BANK AND A QUICK DASH BACK TO THE MINE TUNNEL!
THE EVIL PLOTTER MAKES HIS WAY TO THE ROOF OF THE BANK AND...
CRASH
WHA...? IT'S OLD MAN LESTER!
NO FIREWORKS, PLEASE! THEY UPSET MY NERVES! HA HA!
UGH!
FIRST TO BLOW UP THE VAULT DOOR ....
DYNAM
BOOM!
THAT BLAST WOULD OPEN UP ANY DOOR! HEH HEH!
GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE FAST, BEFORE THE WHOLE TOWN COMES RUNNING BECAUSE OF THE EXPLOSION!
YOU CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THIS LESTER.... AAGGGHHH!
WELL, I AM SURE YOU WON'T WANT TO DETAIN ME!
BANG


THE KILLER DISAPPEARS INTO THE NIGHT AS TOWNS PEOPLE RUSH TO THE SCENE...
IT WAS OLD MAN LESTER! ROBBED THE VAULT AND SHOT ME, I-I-I, UH, UH...
HE'S DEAD!
IN THE SHADOWS, MARK TODD BECOMES THE BLAZING SKULL AND PURSUES THE FLEEING FIGURE!
THAT LOOKS LIKE LESTER! NOW I'LL GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS MYSTERY!
THIS SHORT CUT THRU THE MINE WILL GET ME BACK TO THE HOUSE IN NO TIME! THE BOYS WILL BE AMAZED!
HIYA BOSS, DID EVERYTHING WORK OUT SMOOTHE!
JUST AS I PLANNED IT, THE LAW WILL BE ON JOHN LESTER'S TRAIL AND WE'LL BE FAR AWAY!
THE BLAZING SKULL MAKES A SUDDEN ENTRANCE...
BEFORE YOU GO BOYS, LET'S TALK THIS OVER!
NOT VERY CHUMMY, ARE YOU!
AND HERE'S ONE FOR YOU! I PLAY NO FAVORITES!
THIS'LL TAKE THE STARCH OUT OF YOU!


I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU LATER! GET IN THERE!
WOW! THAT WAS SOME CRACK! SOUNDS LIKE I'M BEING LOCKED IN HERE!
WHAT IN THE--?? MR. LESTER! BUT I THOUGHT YOU JUST LOCKED ME IN HERE?
IT WASN'T ME! THAT WAS KILLER BROGAN DISGUISED AS ME!
BROGAN TOOK POSSESSION OF MY HOUSE... KEEPS ME LOCKED IN HERE! HE USED THE TUNNEL TO GET TO TOWN AND ROB THE BANK!
THAT CLEARS UP THE WHOLE MYSTERY! BROGAN DID ROB THE BANK, AND KILLED THE GUARD! NOW THE TOWN IS OUT LOOKING FOR YOU!
THEY'LL NEVER BELIEVE MY STORY! BROGAN WILL ESCAPE AND I'LL HAVE TO TAKE THE BLAME!
AND IN THE NEXT ROOM...
I WON'T NEED THIS DISGUISE ANYMORE! OLD MAN LESTER IS AS GOOD AS HANGED RIGHT NOW! HA HA...
WE'D BETTER SCRAM OUTTA HERE, BOSS! THE LAW MUST BE ON ITS WAY TO PICK UP LESTER!
FIRST I GOTTA BUMP OFF THAT GUY IN THE RED SUIT! HE MIGHT TELL THE COPPERS WE FRAMED LESTER!
5

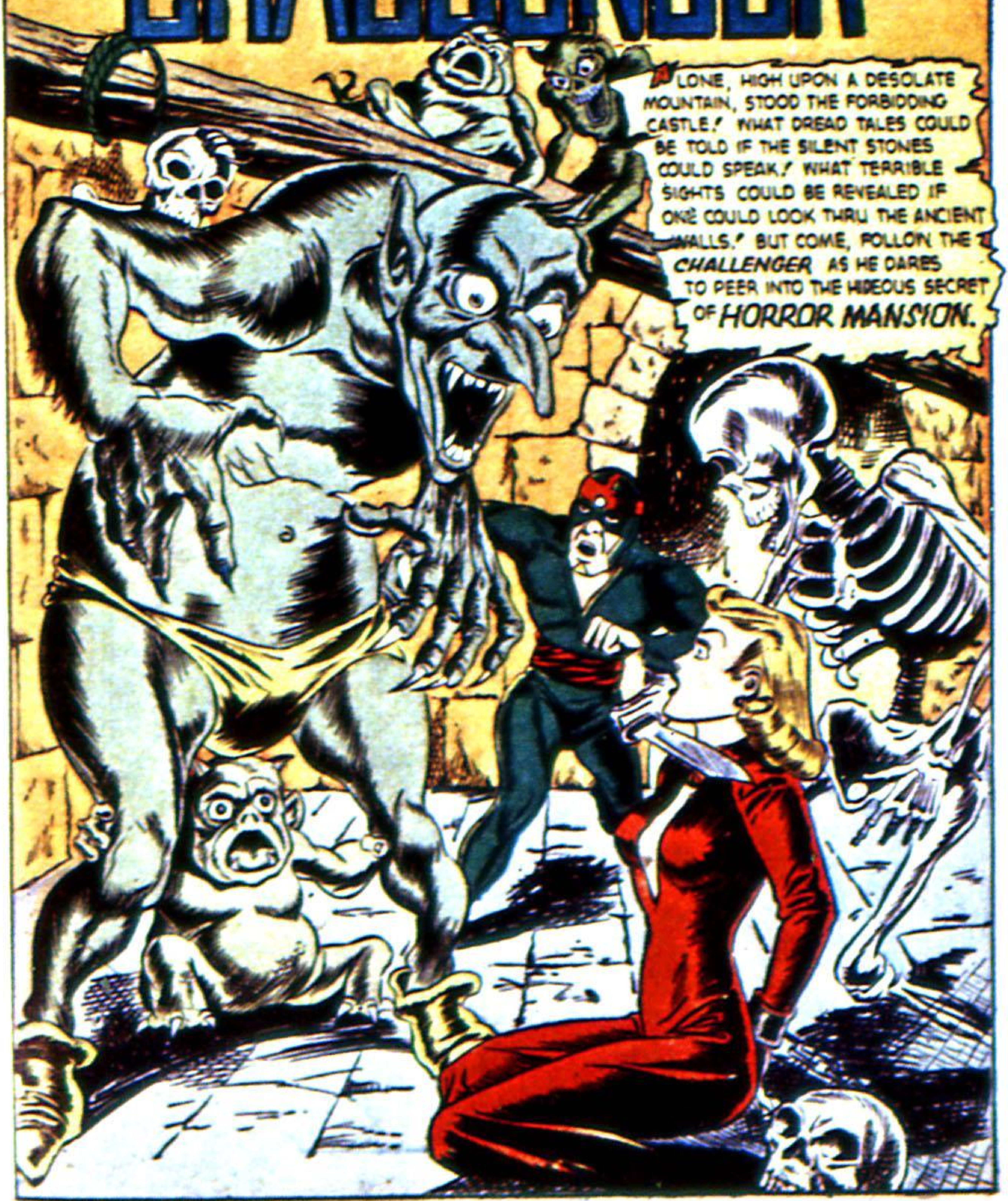

But THE BLAZING SKULL IS READY FOR ACTION!
I WAS HOPING YOU'D BE BACK!
OOOOH!
YOU BOYS OUGHT TO GET TOGETHER!
AT THAT MOMENT THE POLICE ARRIVE!
WE'LL PROBABLY FIND OLD MAN LESTER HERE, COUNTING THE MONEY HE STOLE!
AND GETTING READY TO MAKE A GETAWAY!
BUT YOU HAVE THE WRONG MAN, I TELL YOU!
HOLD ON A MINUTE!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE... WALKIN' AROUND IN THAT COSTUME?
THE BLAZING SKULL... AT YOUR SERVICE! LESTER HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ROBBERY AND MURDER! THE MEN YOU WANT ARE IN THE OTHER ROOM!
KILLER BROGAN USED THIS MASK TO PIN THE CRIME ON MR. LESTER!
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS! WELL, LET'S GET BROGAN, AND HIS THUGS!

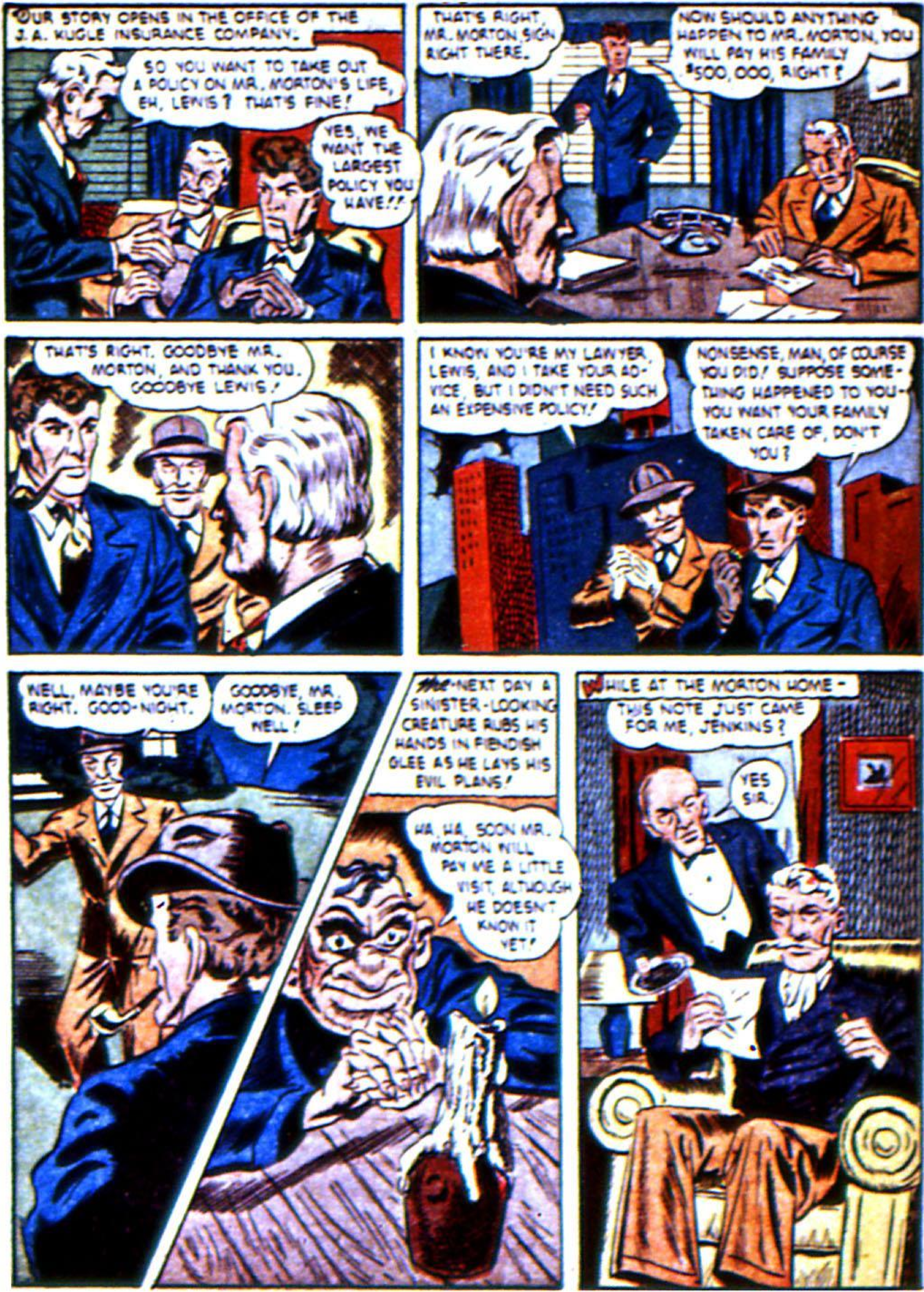

THESE ARE BROGAN'S MEN ALL RIGHT!
BUT WHERE'S BROGAN?
SKIPPED OUT, EH! I THINK I KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM!
BAH! THE TUNNEL WILL GET ME AWAY FROM HERE FAST ENOUGH! LET THOSE MUGS TAKE THEIR MEDICINE! AS LONG AS I ESCAPE!
THE GAME'S UP, BROGAN! COME BACK AND FACE THE MUSIC!
YEAH? COME AN' GET ME!
VERY WELL, IF YOU INSIST! NOW I'VE GOT YOU!
YOUR DIRTY WORK IS OVER, BROGAN!
TONS OF ROCK COME HURTLING DOWN ON THE KILLER!
KERASHH!
THE BLAZING SKULL DISAPPEARS FROM THE SCENE AND THE NEXT DAY RETURNS AS MARK TODD....
I'M GLAD YOU CAME TO VISIT ME, MARK! YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD WHAT HAPPENED HERE LAST NIGHT!
YES, SO KILLER BROGAN WAS BURIED WHEN THE OLD MINE CAVED IN! IT JUST PROVES THAT JUSTICE WILL ALWAYS SEEK OUT A CRIMINAL AND DESTROY HIM!
DON'T MISS THE NEXT AMAZING ADVENTURE OF THE BLAZING SKULL IN MYSTIC COMICS!

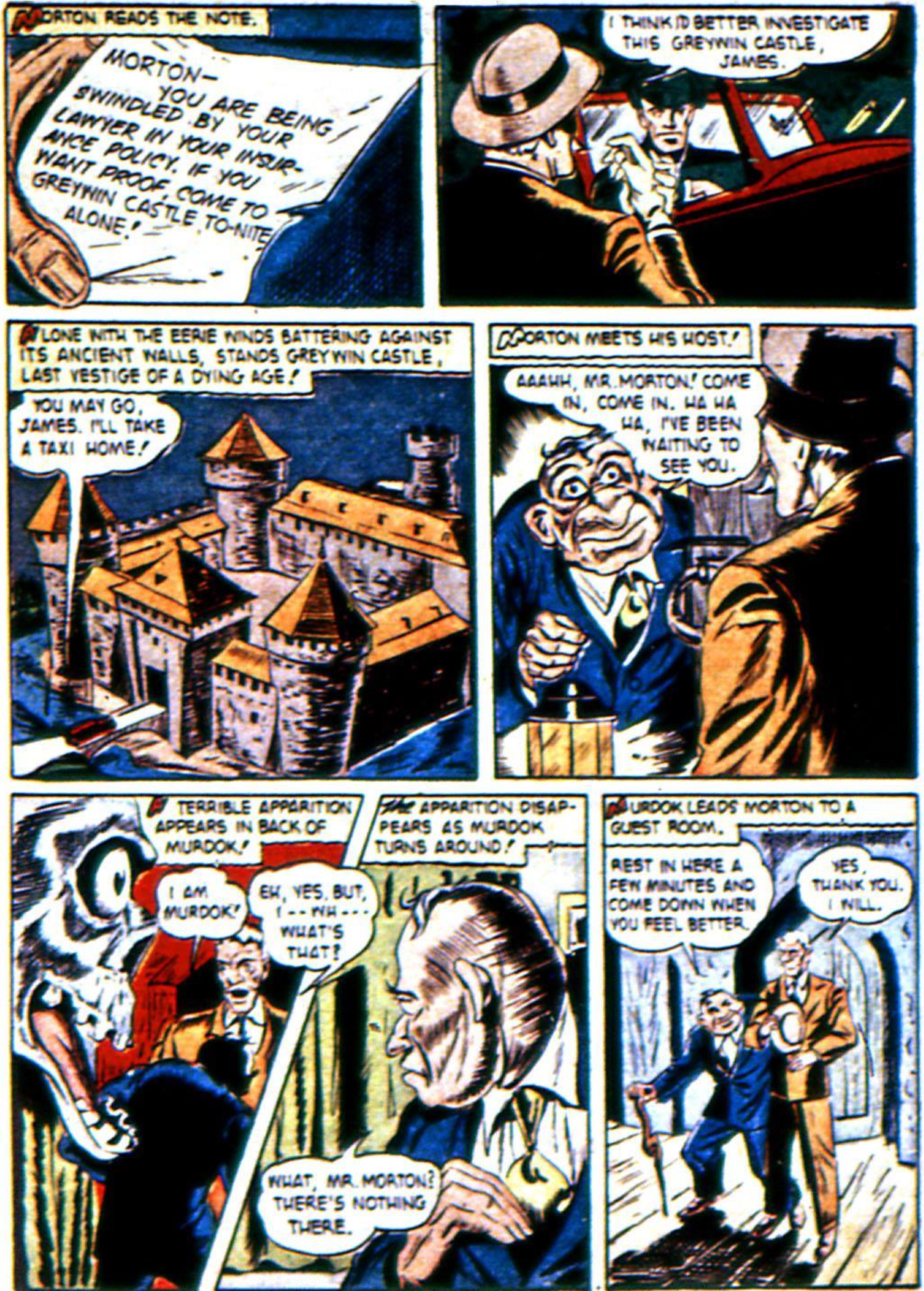
THE CHALLENGER

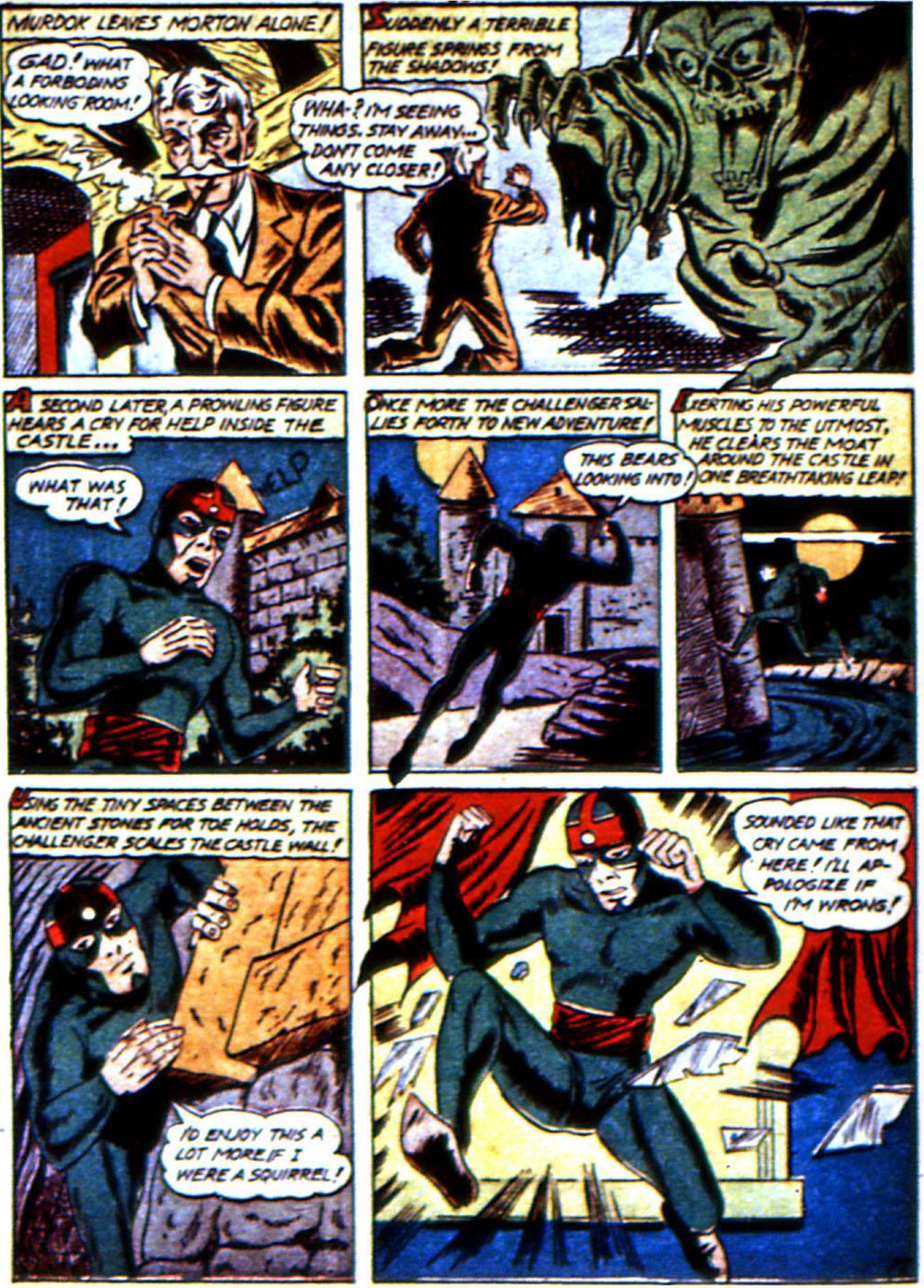
Story by STAN LEE

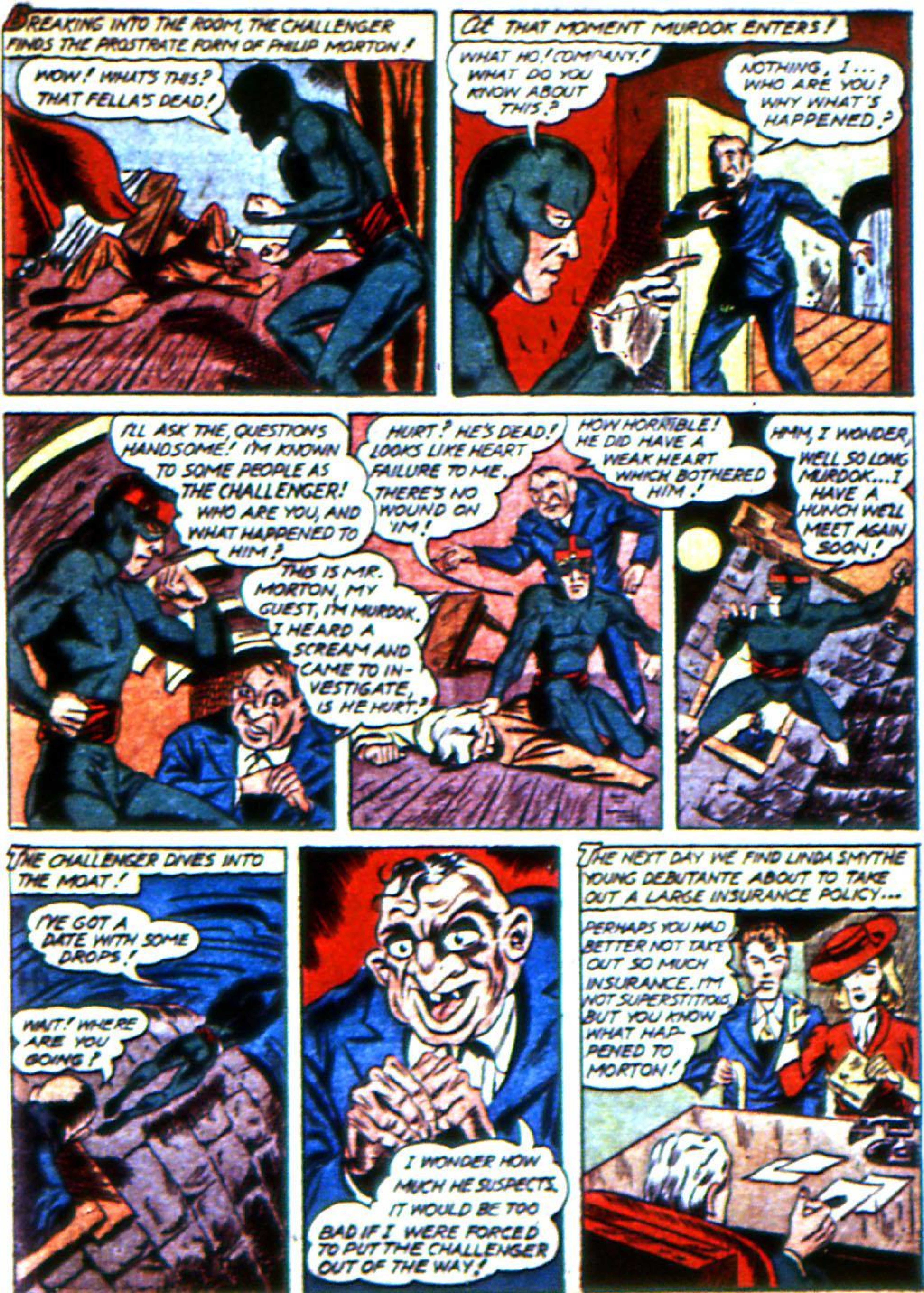
Drawn by M. SEKOWSKY

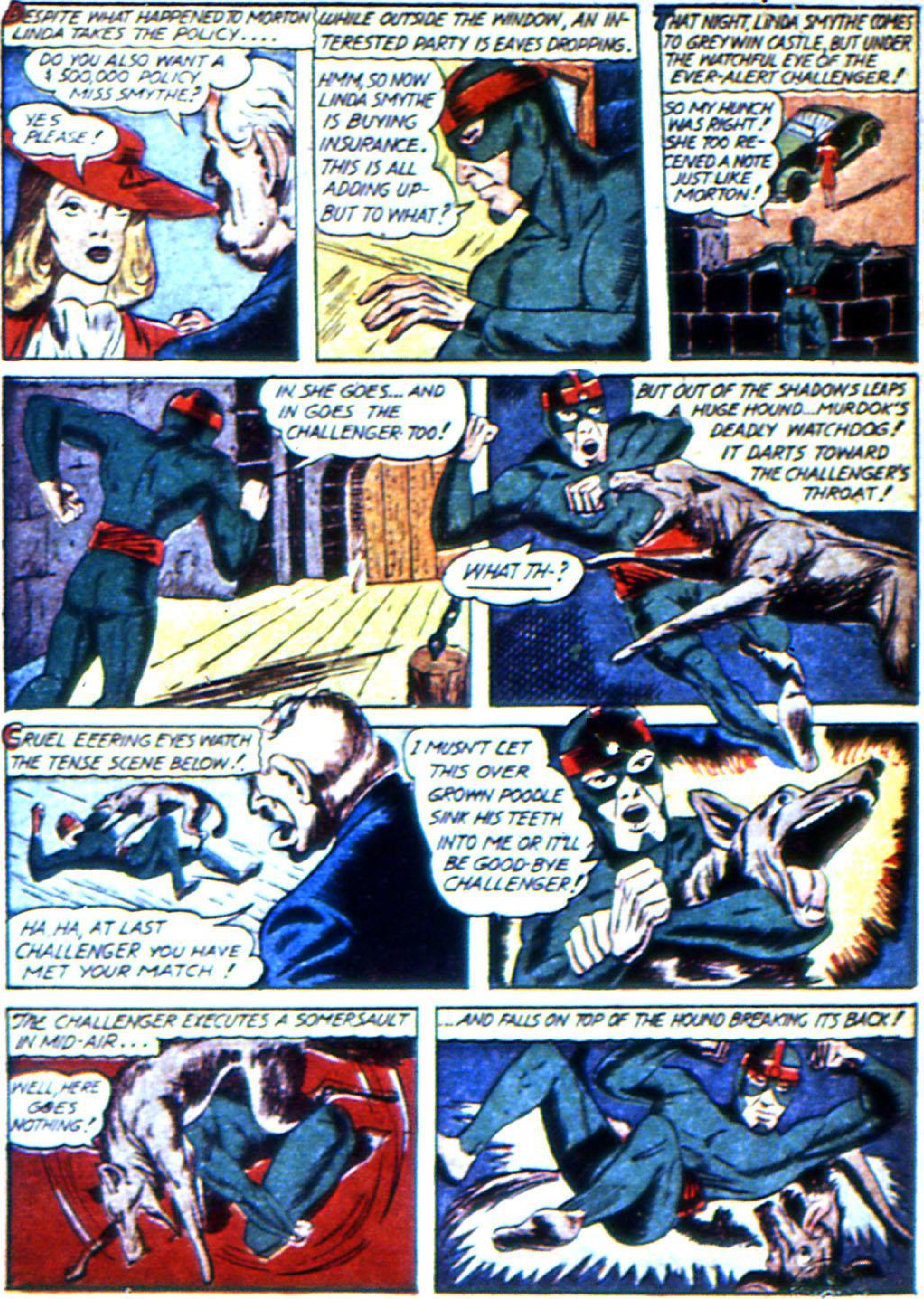

ALONE, HIGH UPON A DESOLATE MOUNTAIN, STOOD THE FORBIDDING CASTLE! WHAT DREAD TALES COULD BE TOLD IF THE SILENT STONES COULD SPEAK! WHAT TERRIBLE SIGHTS COULD BE REVEALED IF ONE COULD LOOK THRU THE ANCIENT WALLS! BUT COME, FOLLOW THE *CHALLENGER* AS HE DARES TO PEER INTO THE HIDEOUS SECRET OF *HORROR MANSION*.

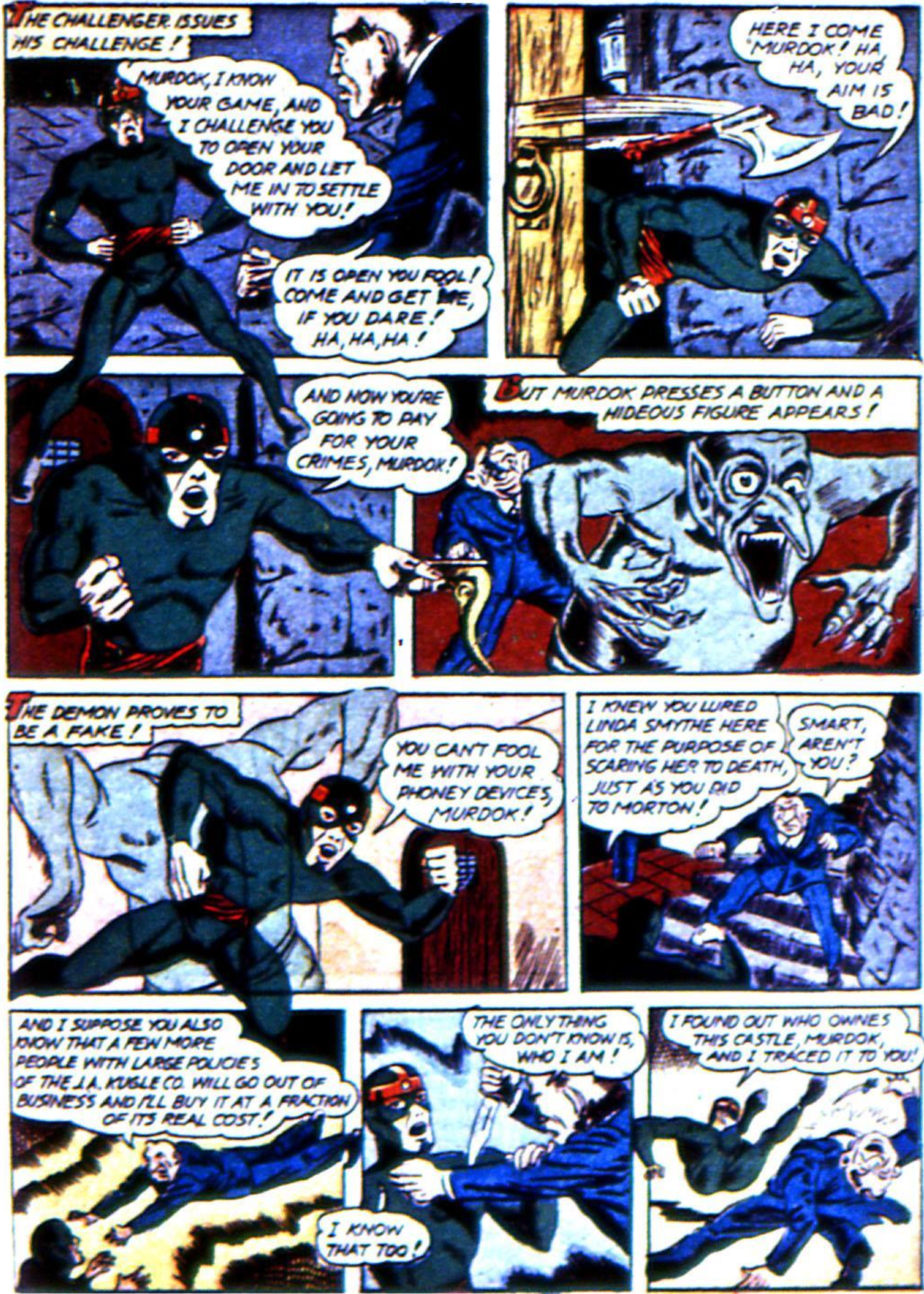

OUR STORY OPENS IN THE OFFICE OF THE J. A. KUGLE INSURANCE COMPANY.
SO YOU WANT TO TAKE OUT A POLICY ON MR. MORTON'S LIFE, EH, LEWIS? THAT'S FINE!
YES, WE WANT THE LARGEST POLICY YOU HAVE!!
THAT'S RIGHT, MR. MORTON, SIGN RIGHT THERE.
NOW SHOULD ANYTHING HAPPEN TO MR. MORTON, YOU WILL PAY HIS FAMILY $500,000, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT. GOODBYE MR. MORTON, AND THANK YOU. GOODBYE LEWIS!
I KNOW YOU'RE MY LAWYER, LEWIS, AND I TAKE YOUR ADVICE, BUT I DIDN'T NEED SUCH AN EXPENSIVE POLICY!
NONSENSE, MAN, OF COURSE YOU DID! SUPPOSE SOMETHING HAPPENED TO YOU--YOU WANT YOUR FAMILY TAKEN CARE OF, DON'T YOU?
WELL, MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT. GOOD-NIGHT.
GOODBYE, MR. MORTON. SLEEP WELL!
THE NEXT DAY A SINISTER-LOOKING CREATURE RUBS HIS HANDS IN FIENDISH GLEE AS HE LAYS HIS EVIL PLANS!
HA, HA, SOON MR. MORTON WILL PAY ME A LITTLE VISIT, ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T KNOW IT YET!
WHILE AT THE MORTON HOME-
THIS NOTE JUST CAME FOR ME, JENKINS?
YES SIR.

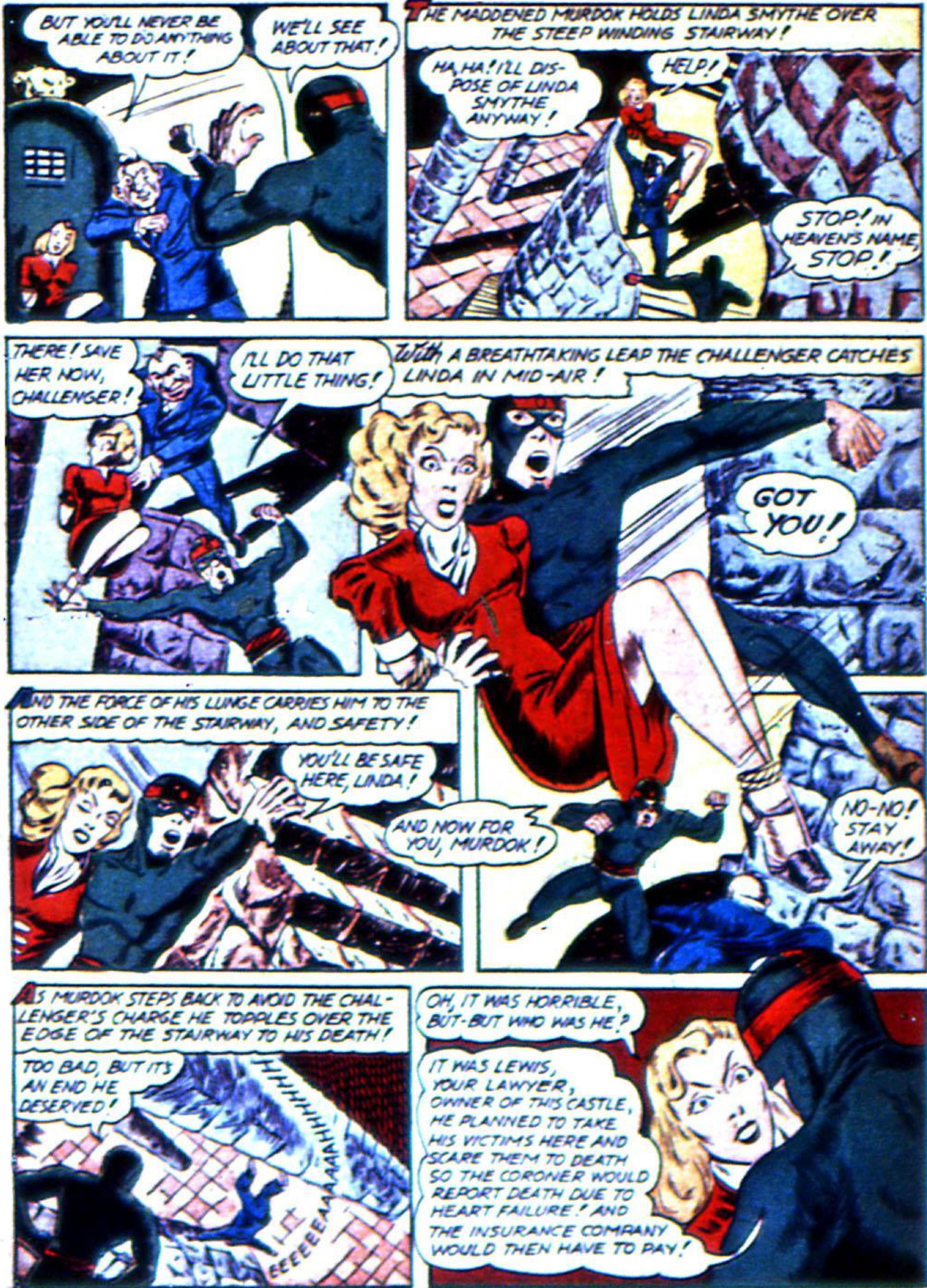

MORTON READS THE NOTE.
MORTON— YOU ARE BEING SWINDLED BY YOUR LAWYER IN YOUR INSURANCE POLICY. IF YOU WANT PROOF, COME TO GREYWIN CASTLE TO-NITE ALONE!
I THINK I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE THIS GREYWIN CASTLE, JAMES.
ALONE WITH THE EERIE WINDS BATTERING AGAINST ITS ANCIENT WALLS, STANDS GREYWIN CASTLE, LAST VESTIGE OF A DYING AGE!
YOU MAY GO, JAMES. I'LL TAKE A TAXI HOME!
MORTON MEETS HIS HOST!
AAAHH, MR. MORTON! COME IN, COME IN. HA HA HA, I'VE BEEN WAITING TO SEE YOU.
A TERRIBLE APPARITION APPEARS IN BACK OF MURDOK!
I AM MURDOK!
EH, YES, BUT, I -- WH --- WHAT'S THAT?
THE APPARITION DISAPPEARS AS MURDOK TURNS AROUND!
WHAT, MR. MORTON? THERE'S NOTHING THERE.
MURDOK LEADS MORTON TO A GUEST ROOM.
REST IN HERE A FEW MINUTES AND COME DOWN WHEN YOU FEEL BETTER.
YES, THANK YOU. I WILL.


MURDOK LEAVES MORTON ALONE!
GAD! WHAT A FORBODING LOOKING ROOM!
SUDDENLY A TERRIBLE FIGURE SPRINGS FROM THE SHADOWS!
WHA-? I'M SEEING THINGS. STAY AWAY... DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
A SECOND LATER, A PROWLING FIGURE HEARS A CRY FOR HELP INSIDE THE CASTLE...
HELP
WHAT WAS THAT!
ONCE MORE THE CHALLENGER SALLIES FORTH TO NEW ADVENTURE!
THIS BEARS LOOKING INTO!
EXERTING HIS POWERFUL MUSCLES TO THE UTMOST, HE CLEARS THE MOAT AROUND THE CASTLE IN ONE BREATHTAKING LEAP!
USING THE TINY SPACES BETWEEN THE ANCIENT STONES FOR TOE HOLDS, THE CHALLENGER SCALES THE CASTLE WALL!
I'D ENJOY THIS A LOT MORE IF I WERE A SQUIRREL!
SOUNDED LIKE THAT CRY CAME FROM HERE! I'LL APOLOGIZE IF I'M WRONG!


BREAKING INTO THE ROOM, THE CHALLENGER FINDS THE PROSTRATE FORM OF PHILIP MORTON!
WOW! WHAT'S THIS? THAT FELLA'S DEAD!
AT THAT MOMENT MURDOK ENTERS!
WHAT HO! COMPANY! WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS?
NOTHING, I... WHO ARE YOU? WHY WHAT'S HAPPENED?
I'LL ASK THE QUESTIONS HANDSOME! I'M KNOWN TO SOME PEOPLE AS THE CHALLENGER! WHO ARE YOU, AND WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
THIS IS MR. MORTON, MY GUEST, I'M MURDOK. I HEARD A SCREAM AND CAME TO INVESTIGATE, IS HE HURT?
HURT? HE'S DEAD! LOOKS LIKE HEART FAILURE TO ME. THERE'S NO WOUND ON 'IM!
HOW HORRIBLE! HE DID HAVE A WEAK HEART WHICH BOTHERED HIM!
HMM, I WONDER, WELL SO LONG MURDOK... I HAVE A HUNCH WELL MEET AGAIN SOON!
THE CHALLENGER DIVES INTO THE MOAT!
I'VE GOT A DATE WITH SOME DROPS!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I WONDER HOW MUCH HE SUSPECTS. IT WOULD BE TOO BAD IF I WERE FORCED TO PUT THE CHALLENGER OUT OF THE WAY!
THE NEXT DAY WE FIND LINDA SMYTHE YOUNG DEBUTANTE ABOUT TO TAKE OUT A LARGE INSURANCE POLICY...
PERHAPS YOU HAD BETTER NOT TAKE OUT SO MUCH INSURANCE. I'M NOT SUPERSTITIOUS BUT YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO MORTON!


DESPITE WHAT HAPPENED TO MORTON LINDA TAKES THE POLICY....
DO YOU ALSO WANT A $500,000 POLICY, MISS SMYTHE?
YES PLEASE!
WHILE OUTSIDE THE WINDOW, AN INTERESTED PARTY IS EAVES DROPPING.
HMM, SO NOW LINDA SMYTHE IS BUYING INSURANCE. THIS IS ALL ADDING UP- BUT TO WHAT?
THAT NIGHT, LINDA SMYTHE COMES TO GREY WIN CASTLE, BUT UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF THE EVER-ALERT CHALLENGER!
SO MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! SHE TOO RECEIVED A NOTE JUST LIKE MORTON!
IN SHE GOES... AND IN GOES THE CHALLENGER TOO!
BUT OUT OF THE SHADOWS LEAPS A HUGE HOUND...MURDOK'S DEADLY WATCHDOG! IT DARTS TOWARD THE CHALLENGER'S THROAT!
WHAT TH-?
CRUEL LEERING EYES WATCH THE TENSE SCENE BELOW!
HA, HA, AT LAST CHALLENGER YOU HAVE MET YOUR MATCH!
I MUSN'T LET THIS OVER GROWN POODLE SINK HIS TEETH INTO ME OR IT'LL BE GOOD-BYE CHALLENGER!
THE CHALLENGER EXECUTES A SOMERSAULT IN MID-AIR...
WELL, HERE GOES NOTHING!
...AND FALLS ON TOP OF THE HOUND BREAKING ITS BACK!


THE CHALLENGER ISSUES HIS CHALLENGE!
MURDOK, I KNOW YOUR GAME, AND I CHALLENGE YOU TO OPEN YOUR DOOR AND LET ME IN TO SETTLE WITH YOU!
IT IS OPEN YOU FOOL! COME AND GET ME, IF YOU DARE! HA, HA, HA!
HERE I COME MURDOK! HA, HA, YOUR AIM IS BAD!
AND NOW YOU'RE GOING TO PAY FOR YOUR CRIMES, MURDOK!
BUT MURDOK PRESSES A BUTTON AND A HIDEOUS FIGURE APPEARS!
THE DEMON PROVES TO BE A FAKE!
YOU CAN'T FOOL ME WITH YOUR PHONEY DEVICES, MURDOK!
I KNEW YOU LURED LINDA SMYTHE HERE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SCARING HER TO DEATH, JUST AS YOU DID TO MORTON!
SMART, AREN'T YOU?
AND I SUPPOSE YOU ALSO KNOW THAT A FEW MORE PEOPLE WITH LARGE POLICIES OF THE J.A. KUGLE CO. WILL GO OUT OF BUSINESS AND I'LL BUY IT AT A FRACTION OF ITS REAL COST!
THE ONLY THING YOU DON'T KNOW IS, WHO I AM!
I KNOW THAT TOO!
I FOUND OUT WHO OWNES THIS CASTLE, MURDOK, AND I TRACED IT TO YOU!


BUT YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
THE MADDENED MURDOK HOLDS LINDA SMYTHE OVER THE STEEP WINDING STAIRWAY!
HA, HA! I'LL DISPOSE OF LINDA SMYTHE ANYWAY!
HELP!
STOP! IN HEAVEN'S NAME, STOP!
THERE! SAVE HER NOW, CHALLENGER!
I'LL DO THAT LITTLE THING!
WITH A BREATHTAKING LEAP THE CHALLENGER CATCHES LINDA IN MID-AIR!
GOT YOU!
AND THE FORCE OF HIS LUNGE CARRIES HIM TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE STAIRWAY, AND SAFETY!
YOU'LL BE SAFE HERE, LINDA!
AND NOW FOR YOU, MURDOK!
NO-NO! STAY AWAY!
AS MURDOK STEPS BACK TO AVOID THE CHALLENGER'S CHARGE HE TOPPLES OVER THE EDGE OF THE STAIRWAY TO HIS DEATH!
TOO BAD, BUT IT'S AN END HE DESERVED!
EEEEEEAAAAAHHHHHHHH
OH, IT WAS HORRIBLE, BUT-BUT WHO WAS HE?
IT WAS LEWIS, YOUR LAWYER, OWNER OF THIS CASTLE. HE PLANNED TO TAKE HIS VICTIMS HERE AND SCARE THEM TO DEATH SO THE CORONER WOULD REPORT DEATH DUE TO HEART FAILURE! AND THE INSURANCE COMPANY WOULD THEN HAVE TO PAY!

REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR!

FOR DEFENSE

BUY
UNITED
STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

LET ALL AMERICA ARISE
VICTORY SHALL BE OURS
DO YOUR SHARE

BUY UNITED STATES SAVINGS BONDS and STAMPS!

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Any prize shown in this circle, and dozens of others in our **FREE PRIZE BOOK**, is **GIVEN** to you for selling only one 40-pack order of American Vegetable and Flower Seeds at 10c per large pack. Everybody wants American Seeds—they are fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly and get your prize at once. Send the coupon now for **FREE SINGING LARIAT**, Seeds and Free Prize Book showing over sixty prizes like Toilet Set, Roller Skates, Radio, etc.

SEND NO MONEY—WE TRUST YOU

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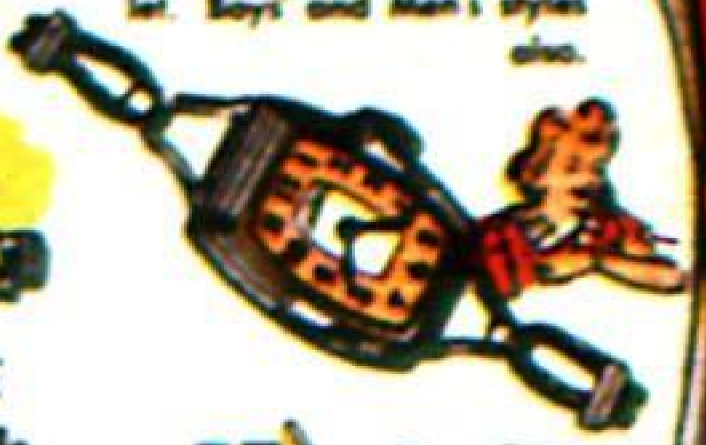
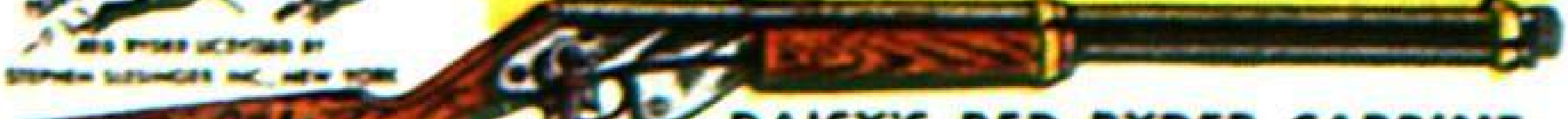
RED RYDER LICENSED BY STEPHEN SLESINGER INC., NEW YORK

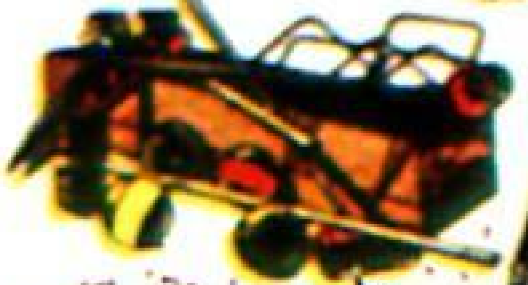


Sell only one order and get a beautiful Girls or Women's WRIST WATCH, with cord bracelet. Boys' and Men's styles also.

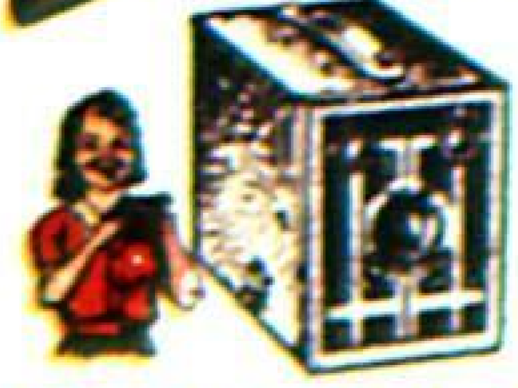


DAISY'S RED RYDER CARBINE

A lightning-loading, fast-shooting, 1000 shot Air Rifle.

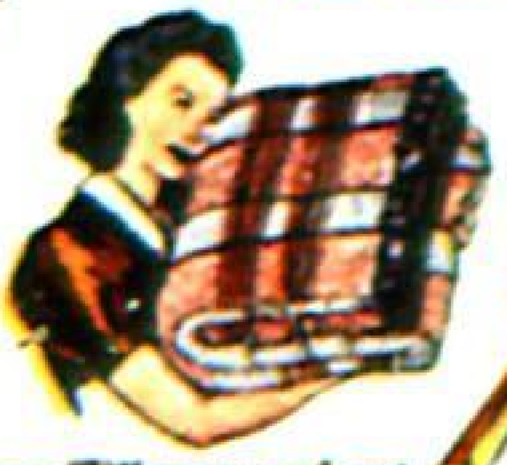


CROQUET SET Complete set given for selling one order.

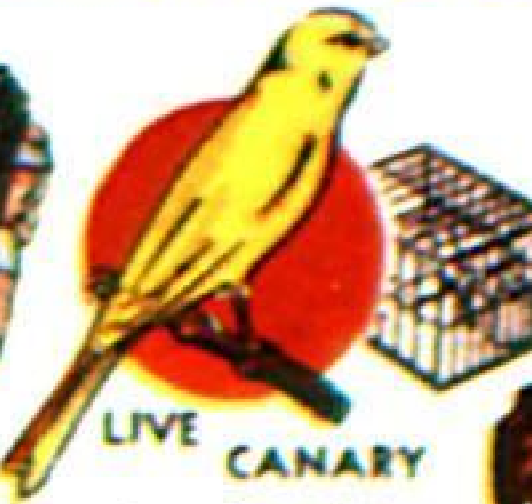


EASTMAN CAMERA

Given for selling only one order

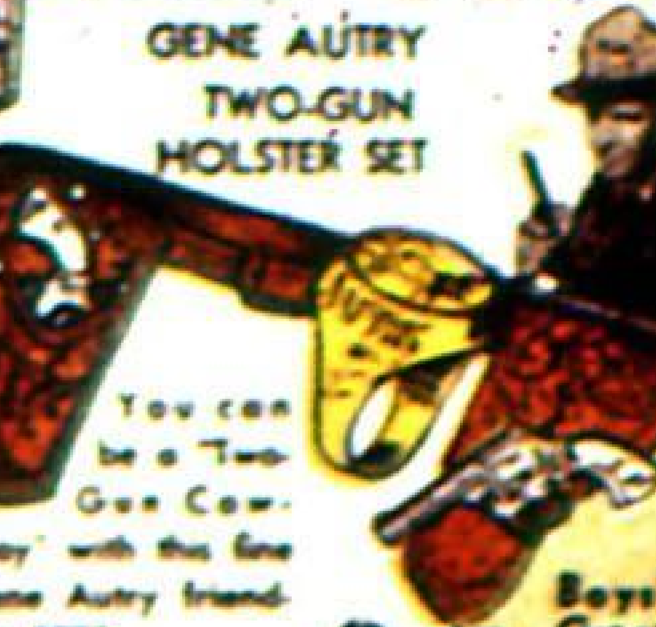


Pepperell "Warm-weave" part wool blanket. Warm, soft and fleecy!



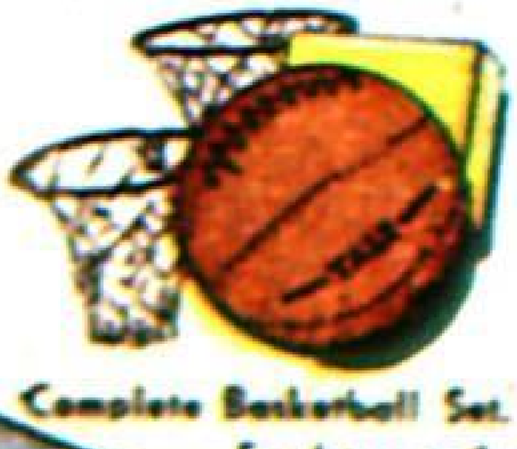
LIVE CANARY

given for selling only one order. Safe delivery guaranteed.

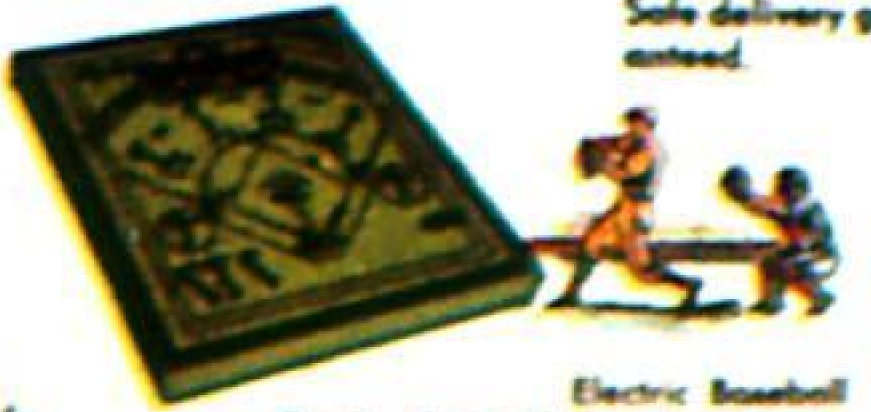


GENE AUTRY TWO-GUN HOLSTER SET

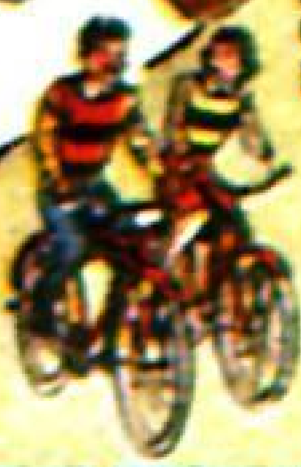
You can be a "Two-Gun Cowboy" with this fine set. Gene Autry friendship ring FREE.



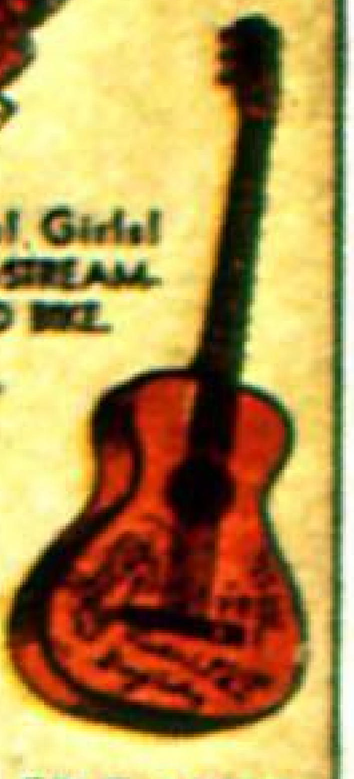
Complete Basketball Set. For boys and girls.



Electric Baseball Game. Hours of fun for all the family—the game you'll never tire of playing.



Boys! Girls! GateSTREAM-LINED BIKE.



GENE AUTRY GUITAR

Full size, full tone, decorated with western scene and Gene Autry's signature.

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My choice of Prize is ________________

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